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## Re-Seeding the Range

Some Phases of the Range—Re-Seeding Problems as Developed at the Great Basin Experiment Station

By Arthur W. Sampson

For some time every state in the Union has been operating a well-equipped agricultural experiment station with a view of improving the yield and quality of forage crops and of developing breeds of livestock well adapted to local conditions. Very little has thus far been accomplished toward increasing and properly maintaining the forage crop on some 500,000,000 acres of range lands in the far West. Yet this is an economic resource second to none.

In the management of the National

Forests alone, approximately 110,000,000 acres of land is available annually for the grazing of livestock. The need for thoroughgoing investigations on this range, most of which is summer pasture land, was recognized by the Forest Service as early as 1907, when a small force of investigators was set to work with a view of assisting administrative officers and stockmen in solving their difficulties. In 1913 the need was recognized for more intensive range studies than had formerly been conducted. The project initiated at

that time by the Forest Service resulted in the establishment of what is now the Great Basin Experiment Station. This station is located in the Wasatch Mountains of central Utah, in the heart of the livestock section of the state, and is devoted almost entirely to grazing studies.

Many such factors as too heavy stocking, grazing by the wrong class of stock, and unfavorable climatic conditions are responsible for the depletion of the range. In general, however, range deterioration is chargeable to



Headquarters at the Great Basin Experiment Station, Ephraim, Utah. This is the only station of its kind devoted exclusively to study of the methods of using and conserving natural grazing. It is under the direction of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, with Mr. Sampson in charge.

three conditions: (1) Premature grazing and the lack of uniform utilization of the forage crop; (2) too frequent cropping and an almost entire disregard for the growth requirements of the vegetation; and (3) inability to recognize over-grazing and failure to correct it in its early stages.

#### TIME OF GRAZING NORTH AND SOUTH SLOPES

In order to determine the time at which the range is ready for grazing, many factors must be taken into account. Because of the variation in elevation and in the topographic features characteristic of National Forest lands, it is necessary to consider the major types of vegetation individually with reference to their grazing utility and the time at which the vegetation should be cropped. It is well, therefore, to divide the range into seasonal zones, according to the time at which the forage is sufficiently developed to afford a good "bite." In deciding on the readiness for grazing of the larger range types, it is found helpful to correlate the development of the palatable undergrowth with the leaf or flower development of the more conspicuous vegetation. For instance, when the leaves of the aspen are about one-half inch long, say about one-third their full size, such plants as bluegrass (*Poa*), porcupine grass (*Stipa*), geranium, and the palatable herbs generally are found to have a height growth of from four to six inches—a sufficient development to justify the admission of stock. This development is usually accomplished in from fifteen to twenty days after growth has started. It is also important to note the difference in the vegetation on, say, a north and a south slope of the same elevation, as the direction of the slope is an important factor in growth production. In the lower reaches it is found that growth on south and west slopes may be from two to three weeks earlier than that on north and east exposures of the same elevation. Therefore, if cattle are permitted to graze at large, they are liable seriously to over-graze the cooler and later slopes and under-graze the warmer and earlier ones.

If the grazing types in the Inter-



Figure 1—Typical specimens of Violet Wheatgrass cropped according to different methods which are in more or less common use on Western Ranges.

The two specimens on the extreme left represent the root development of plants cropped once during the season, about six weeks after the beginning of growth; the three in the center are typical of plants cropped twice in the season, namely, six weeks after growth has started and again in the autumn; and those to the right represent the stand which was harvested once monthly after growth had begun, the first cutting being made two weeks after growth had started.

mountain region are considered in a broad way for, let us say, south exposures, the approximate dates at which the range may be grazed are about as follows: 6,000 feet and lower, April 15 to May 1; 6,000 to 7,500 feet (oakbrush or yellow pine type), throughout May; 7,500 to 9,000 feet, throughout June; 9,000 feet and up, from about July 1 throughout the summer.

In general, the cattle ranges are more seriously depleted than the sheep ranges, for the reason that cattle cannot conveniently be held on that portion of the range where the vegetation is sufficiently developed for grazing. In order properly to control cattle and, at the same time, afford reasonable protection of the various plant types, fencing is necessary. Riding is usually unsatisfactory, and the cost of effective riding soon amounts to as much as the cost of a well-constructed drift fence.

#### EXPERIMENTS ON EFFECT OF HEAVY GRAZING

Special plots of forage laid out over the range and harvested with varying frequency for three successive years have clearly emphasized the fallacy of too frequent and too early cropping. As a preliminary test, a representative number of plants—both grasses and broad-leaved herbs—have been cut with shears at regular intervals throughout the growing season to correspond with various grazing practices. Some plots were harvested a

week or ten days after growth had started; some were cropped four times each season at monthly intervals, the first harvesting being made about three weeks after growth had begun, and the other harvestings at monthly intervals thereafter; still others were harvested just before seed maturity to correspond with the deferred grazing system, and the aftermath was removed after the killing frosts had arrested its growth. In addition, various other combinations of harvesting were adopted to correspond with the usual grazing practices.

#### FORAGE YIELD

Violet wheatgrass (*Agropyron violaceum*) was used in these test areas. After the yields procured during the three years of tests were compared, it was found that the largest forage yield was produced where the plants were harvested only once during the season, that is, just before seed maturity. The once-harvested plots yielded 5.6 times as much air-dry forage as did the plots that were harvested four times during the season. Likewise, where two cuttings were made, the yield was 4.3 times greater than where the four cuttings were made (Fig. 1).

With native bromegrass (*Bromus marginatus*) the plots harvested twice during the season made the biggest yield, the dry weight being 7.2 greater than that of the yield on the plots that were cut four times. The plots harvested once during the season yielded

4.1 times more forage than did the plot that was cut four times.

#### VALUE OF NEW AND MORE MATURE GREEN FEED

Chemical analyses have shown that the young herbage, as compared with the more mature leafage, contains about the same amount of ether extract (oils and fats), less crude fiber (cellulose, which is largely indigestible material), more crude protein (nitrogenous compounds, which are muscle and tissue forming constituents), and less nitrogen-free extract (carbohydrates, which are the sugars and starches, or the heat and energy producing constituents). For young, growing animals, therefore, the young leafage, no doubt, affords fairly satisfactory feed, but it will not produce so much fat as will the more mature herbage. However, when one takes into account the striking difference in the yield, in favor of the less frequently harvested areas, the amount of food constituents or nutrients produced is distinctly in favor of cropping the lands only two times rather than four times or more in a season. Furthermore, where the plants were harvested four times a season, about 85 per cent of the original plant cover was killed out at the end of the third year's test; whereas, the stand was at first quite as luxurious as the original stand where the plants were harvested less frequently.

#### HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND CORRECT OVER-GRAZING

The one reliable proof that over-grazing has occurred and that serious damage has been inflicted lies in the fact that the type of vegetation has degenerated. Short-lived plants invariably replace the more stable, deep-rooted, palatable kinds on lands that are cropped too frequently year after year. Accordingly, the types of plant that are increasing in abundance on the range tell the story of whether the lands are improving, declining, or merely "holding their own" in forage production.

On most of the high summer range in the Great Basin region, wheat-grasses constitute the highest and possibly the most valuable forage type. Where this cover is weakened by over-

grazing, such plants as yellowbrush (*Chrysothamnus*), wild pea (*Lupinus*), mountain sunflower, (*Helianthella*), and sneezeweed (*Dugaldia*) soon make their appearance. If over-grazing is continued, this perennial cover is sooner or later replaced by useless annual plants. Where over-grazing is still permitted to continue, even the annual type of vegetation is destroyed, and the area is left denuded and subject to heavy soil-leaching and erosion.

If the types of plant that gain dominion over the soil where the more desirable cover of forage is destroyed, are observed, it is possible to recognize over-grazing in its early stages and thus prevent serious range depletion.

#### RE-SEEDING THE RANGE

The grazing plan known as the "deferred and rotation" grazing system provides that a portion of the range be reserved for cropping until after most of the seed crop of the main forage species has ripened. The following year, in order to protect the seedlings from serious injury by trampling, the forage is not cropped until after the seed matures in the autumn. After this area has been re-seeded, a second area is selected for deferred grazing. The first tract is then cropped early, usually a considerable time before seed maturity. This plan is continued each season until the whole range has been revegetated.

After the entire grazing allotment has been fairly well re-seeded, the deferred grazing plan is applied first to one portion of the range and then to

another to make possible the production of an occasional seed crop. By this means the weakened or decadent old seed plants are soon replaced by a vigorous young growth.

The deferred and rotation grazing system has been applied on an extensive scale on practically every important grazing forest throughout the West, as well as on such low-lying range as most of the uncontrolled public domain, and the results have been uniformly satisfactory (Figs. 2 and 3). This method of re-seeding native pasture lands has, therefore, been thoroughly tested and is well beyond the experimental stage.

#### THE COST OF OVER-GRAZING

While the deferred and rotation



Figure 2—View showing maximum growth on an unprotected bunchgrass range which had been cropped three times each season for several years in succession. (The height growth did not exceed about eight inches and practically no seed stalks were produced.)

system will in time bring the range back to its original grazing value it requires many years—if, indeed, not centuries—thoroughly to build up a range which has been seriously depleted by over-grazing. The financial loss the stockman suffers because of his failure to recognize and meet the requirements of plant growth is so great that it cannot be even approximately estimated. The recognition and correction of over-grazing in its early stages is highly important. Fitting the grazing plan into the growth requirements of the vegetation benefits the stockman and stabilizes the livestock industry; it is valuable to the irrigation farmer because it regulates the streamflow; and it is an essential element in the conservation of the resources of the forest as well.



Figure 3—View of same type of bunchgrass area as shown above but fenced against stock for three years. (The height growth averaged about 28 inches and there was a large amount of seed produced of good germination strength.)



### WEIGHT OF FLEECE AS RELATED TO LENGTH OF WOOL

At the January convention, Mr. V. O. McWhorter, superintendent of the United States Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, presented most interesting and suggestive data obtained from the experiments conducted with the Bureau of Animal Industry flock kept at the above station. This article reports only the data upon weight of fleece and length of staple. Future articles will cover (1) length of staple as related to fineness, and (2) fleece and body weights as related to face covering.

the long fleeced ewes be separated and bred to rams known to be breeders of staple wool. This plan of breeding has been satisfactorily adopted by some range men in Wyoming. In addition to securing more pounds of wool per ewe these sheepmen have at the same time increased the value of that wool, as staple wool sells from 20 cents to 25 cents per scoured pound higher than clothing wool. On the basis of last year's market, this difference in value for fleeces  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches and less in staple and fleeces over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in staple, as shown in accompanying table, would amount to one dollar fifty cents each in favor of the long stapled fleece.

LENGTH OF STAPLE AS RELATED TO GREASE WEIGHT OF FLEECE

(Five years results; 225 fleeces.)

Year	Lgth of Staple 1.5 in. and less		Lgth of Staple 1.6 to 1.9 in.		Lgth of Staple 2 to 2.4 in.		Lgth of Staple 2.5 to 2.9 in.		Lgth of Staple 3-in. and over	
	No. Fleeces	Grease Weight	No. Fleeces	Grease Weight	No. Fleeces	Grease Weight	No. Fleeces	Grease Weight	No. Fleeces	Grease Weight
1916	69	11.4	237	11.9	137	12.2	22	12.3		
1917	10	7.4	108	8.7	230	9.1	55	9.2	50	9.5
1918	2	11.0	43	12.7	249	13.0	97	13.1	22	12.2
1919	11	10.2	42	11.4	285	11.7	70	12.2	23	12.2
1920	2	9.7	19	10.7	377	11.8	50	10.9	39	10.8
Av. 5 yrs. 25		9.1	281	10.5	1,378	11.6	409	11.8	156	11.0

It is a matter of general knowledge that long stapled fleeces are heavier than short stapled ones. Table I shows the extent to which this difference really exists, as indicated by our experimental work. The data summarized in this table involves a yearly average of four hundred fifty fleeces studied over a period of five years. The fleeces of 1916 and of 1917 were shorn in Wyoming while those of the later years were shorn at Dubois. The extreme light weight for 1917 fleeces is due to adverse weather conditions in Wyoming that year.

The average grease weight for fleeces  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length is 9.1 pounds, while the average grease weight for fleeces  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches in length is 11.8 pounds.

Without question length of staple is the first and primary consideration in getting heavier and higher valued fleeces. It seems safe to assume that any sheepman may increase the amount of staple in his flock should

### COYOTES, HUMAN NATURE, AND GOOD WEATHER

Predatory animals are pretty plentiful this winter, even at the rate the trappers have been exterminating them in the past year. The more I see of them the more I would like to kill every one, and if I had the power and all was in shape and the only thing I would have to do would be to press a button I would not lose any time in approaching the button and pressing it at once.

The government trapper has been working for some time around here and caught a good many (up in the hundreds) of them.

The dry farmers are fast taking up the vacant land. With the 640-acre act on they now can absorb all the land. I think it will be better for the country as to taxes and such. Some are very grouchy to get along with and others are very fine neighbors. I came across one here the other day and we got into a dispute over his land. He never had

it fenced or marked to show boundaries. He said he would see that I would keep the sheep off and if I didn't some of them would be unable to get off. He also said I was trying to run him out of the country, but some people are very prejudiced against the sheepmen, and some take kindly to them. I have tried to help them all I can.

Sheep are doing very fine this winter. No snow to speak of and some of the time the snow about all melted, just enough to keep the sheep in extra fine condition. I cannot remember when the grass and winter were as fine as this year, and I have been in this vicinity for twenty years.

Geo. A. Bergren.

Moorcroft, Wyo.

### SAN LUIS VALLEY THROUGH SHIPPING

The movement of fat sheep and lambs from the San Luis valley in Colorado is over. D. Patterson of Mecita, one of the pioneer feeders of the San Luis section, who brought lambs to Kansas City the last week in February, stated that practically all the pea-fed lambs were gone. "Every one seems to be glad that the marketing season is over, for it brought to us unprecedented financial loss," said Mr. Patterson.

The two other big feeding sections of Colorado, the Arkansas valley and the Fort Collins section, still have the bulk of this winter's fed lambs to move.

C. M. P.

### STAUDER LAMBS TOP FEBRUARY MARKET

Clifford Stauder, who feeds lambs at Fowler, Colorado, topped the Kansas City February market with eighty-four-pound lambs that brought \$10.75. These lambs sold on the 25th, and at the low point of the month, February 16th, would not have brought more than \$7.75. Mr. Stauder is one of the biggest feeders in the Arkansas valley. He still has around 5,000 in feed lots.

C. M. P.



# How Shall the Grower Market His Wool?

By Professor John A. Hill

It seems to be the opinion on the part of many who write on agricultural subjects, that in the United States, progress in production has far outstripped progress in marketing. So far as the wool industry of the range states is concerned, I cannot agree to this proposition, for I believe that there are still dollars to be made in more efficient production where there are dimes to be saved in more efficient marketing.

Nevertheless, the experience of last year and the situation that we are facing this year, makes the question of the improvement of market methods a subject of peculiar interest to the wool growers at this time. Last year, after a season unusually expensive, they sheared their sheep and suddenly discovered that no one wanted to buy wool at any price and that the amount of money that could be borrowed on the clip was, as it seemed at the time, almost nothing. Nearly all of them have kept going somehow, but now they are facing a new season with a large part of the old clip still unsold and the country filling up with foreign wool that is being rushed in by manufacturers or speculators in the belief that it will advance in price after the tariff goes into effect. These large importations are not in response to any real demand to fill the immediate requirements for manufacturing. It sometimes looks as if the interested parties will delay the passage of a tariff measure until they get enough wool in this country to last until they get another administration that is in favor of free wool.

## Probable Price Range

With the financial situation as it is among many of the sheep men, it is certain that a great deal of this year's clip must be sold if any kind of a market can be established. Another clip in storage in addition to what is left over from last year is unthinkable at this time. The wool must be sold. The sheepman can't eat it; he can't wear very much of it; and if he makes it into cloth and blankets, he still has

the job of selling them, a job which he will find, after supplying himself and a few of his neighbors, is even harder than selling wool.

If it is to be sold, what is a fair price? Here is a place that we must face the facts. Barring some kind of a panic that breaks the market, wool will sell during the next two years somewhere between what it is costing to bring in the present duty-free importations and the cost of bringing in wool under whatever duty is finally put on. It will tend to reach the upper point as the supply in this country is exhausted. If it strengthens abroad it will strengthen faster here; if it weakens abroad, the advance here will be retarded. The only reason for putting this in this article is that some people think that by pooling the wool and holding, we can get the full effect of the protective tariff almost at once. In fact, some act as if a pool in the United States would raise prices above the world level plus the tariff. If we get a clear idea of a price that we are justified in reason to expect, we are less likely to hold our wool for an im-

possible price while some one else reaps whatever benefit that comes from the price advance caused by holding our wool off the market.

## Wool Selling Methods to Choose From

Keeping in mind that no miracles are likely to happen in the way of increased prices, how shall we sell our wool?

First, there is the time-honored way of selling it at home to the speculative dealer or large manufacturer. Last year, the dealers didn't buy because they didn't know the price of wool or because they knew it was useless to offer what they considered a safe price. They pleaded lack of funds but some one advanced money on nearly all the wool that was grown in the West. The dealers probably could have got at least that much on the wool which, as events turned out, was in many cases about all it was worth. This year, there is a price for wool and speculators seem to have plenty of funds to operate abroad. So there is no reason why they should not buy wool at home.

The advantage of these sales at



A VALUABLE COMMODITY READY FOR MARKET

The re-action from war business has been especially severe upon wool growers because of defects in the ordinary methods of selling and financing. Growers everywhere recognize the need of united action to establish a better system.

home is that the grower knows exactly what amount he is getting; the transaction is closed; there is no worry about the loans and carrying charges. He knows the worst right away. Of course, the buyer is taking some risk that the market will break and makes the price plenty low as insurance against the risk. That, however, is not the worst disadvantage of selling at home. The first is the lack of expert knowledge on the part of the grower. He is at a disadvantage with the buyer because he does not know much about the prices similar wool is bringing in the central market of the world. This disadvantage would be no real handicap if it were not for the second disadvantage, namely, that there is often little or no real competition among the buyers. These two circumstances combine to bring about the tendency to buy wool at a flat rate. There is not sufficient distinction in price between good clips and poor ones. At times, if certain gossip is true, there has been a division of clips among buyers in certain localities. "Plenty of wool and few buyers; so why not act like gentlemen." A third disadvantage is the natural tendency to depress the market at shearing time.

If the grower is going to sell his wool at home, there is no use in holding it in local warehouses except temporarily to avoid the congestion of space in the central markets, and to save the higher charges for storage and insurance in city warehouses. I cannot see how the advocates of a chain of licensed warehouses in the West with the wool sold in dribbles throughout the year, expect to make competition greater than it is in country buying today. Moreover, the grower will be just as ignorant of the value of his wool when stored in the licensed warehouse as he is at the time of shearing.

One can imagine a small manufacturer from Boston or Philadelphia coming West in the dead of winter and fighting snow blockades, while making the rounds of warehouses in Billings, Casper, Rawlins and Soda Springs looking for a carload of wool and bargaining for it with the grow-

ers, when there are importers and speculators willing to show plenty of wool right at home. One way to get competition is to get a great deal of wool together that is all to be sold within a short time. That will at least bring the speculators and perhaps a few of the larger manufacturers. At present the nearest realization of these conditions is at shearing time. The other way to get competition is to get the wool close to a great many consumers, that is to Boston and Philadelphia, and possibly Chicago. Licensed warehouses will doubtless help finance wool by making guaranteed receipts available for collateral but they will not help sell wool that is stored in them in the West. If licensed warehouses are built in the Range States, they should be for the convenience of brokers, who want to hold wool in them for cheaper storage or for growers who do not want to sell their wool but want to hold until the market takes a favorable turn.

If the grower does not want to sell his wool at home but still wants to sell it, he can consign it to some one who knows more about wool than he does and can sell it for him—a wool broker. The brokerage houses of this country may be roughly divided into three classes: (a) dealers who will also sell wool on consignment, (b) brokerage houses owned and operated by Eastern men who do not deal in wool on their own account, (c) the so-called selling agencies owned in whole or part by growers. The oldest and strongest of the last class is the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company; others that have several years' success to their credit are the Columbia Basin Wool Warehouse Company and The First Wool Brokerage Company.

Advantages in the brokerage system are the chance of getting expert salesmanship, and the better competition secured by having the wool sold in the East where it is to be used. Some of the disadvantages are uncertainty of what the return will be and delay in final settlement. Worst of all is the fact that there is room for sharp practice on the part of dishonest brokers

because of the lack of the publicity of or supervision of sales. Another disadvantage is that unless the wool is graded at the shearing shed, it is graded into piles made up of several clips and no grower can be certain that he has not contributed wool to the pile that is more valuable than the average. That is, there is a chance a good clip may be used to "sweeten" a poor pile. With respect to consignment to dealers there is always the additional question of whether or not selling the consigned wool most advantageously for the owners may only be of secondary interest to them.

#### Auction Sales

There is the possibility that some time in the future a group of selling brokers will inaugurate auction sales. Of course, it sounds like a joke to talk of auction sales after the failure of the Philadelphia auctions of 1919, but auctions are the right way to sell wool and recent government auctions have been so successful that there was a cry raised that echoed from Boston to Philadelphia when the last government auction was cancelled. Before that, previous government auctions proved that large quantities of wool can be sold if the reserve values are right, and there is plenty of wool to be sold. Auctions with reserve valuations so high that a large part of the wool will have to be withdrawn or sealed-bid sales at which the owner decides after the bids are in whether the price is high enough, are bound to be a failure. If it is known the wool is to be sold, buyers take time to value the wool carefully; if there is doubt, they make certain that their bids are low enough.

While auctions will give publicity and the spirit of competition, they look to be a long way off at present. If they ever come, it will be through a chain of selling houses, with wool graded carefully into small lots either at the ranch or at the warehouse, who get together at a time when the factories are running and put up their wool with a careful and a conservative reserve valuation placed on each lot.

The situation is not hopeful at present, but there is still a chance that the right time will come. However, even if they do come, auctions will not work any miracles. The period we have just passed through shows that no system of selling will hold the price of wool against a world fall of prices. Auction sales in Australia, government control in Great Britain, national subsidy in Argentina, private speculation in the Range States and growers' pools in the Middle West were equally helpless. When the price of wool got ready to come down, down it came.

### What to Do In 1921

The most practical way to meet the present situation is this: Those that are financially in a position to hold their wool a couple of years, will probably make good profits by storing and holding it, for, if there is a good duty put on wool and there is no great additional slump in world prices, wool in the United States is bound to advance very sharply within two years.

Those who do not want to take a long chance, but are able to hold their wool until there is a demand for it by the mills, should consign their wool preferably to straight brokerage houses with instructions to sell at the market as seems best to the broker.

Those who are hard-pressed or who are without optimism should sell their wool at home to dealers, making every effort to get a reasonable amount of competition, or failing that, a valuation placed on it by some one who is disinterested and who knows wool and wool prices.

Above all, every one must get his ideas of values adjusted to the times. If some such system as this is followed, we will neither break the market by a panic on the part of the growers nor hold our wool to the great benefit of foreigners and speculative importers and in the end, having only our wool for our pains.

### Wool Pools.

This is written with the situation in the Range States especially in mind. In regard to the states where pools flourish, it applies, but with these ad-

ditional remarks. Pools should be the most economical way to market wool that is grown in small lots. The name "pool" is unfortunate for that makes one think of the tobacco pools of old and other cases where the pool constituted a monopoly or nearly so, but a pool of all the wool grown in the United States would only raise our price to the world level and of course, to a slight extent, raise the world level as is being done now by the spirited buying of our speculators abroad while our own wool lies in warehouses. A pool should be formed for the purpose of selling the wool at the market price at a time when conditions seem most favorable. Thus, it will insure competition and save the farmers from being compelled to sell to local buyers, often ignorant as to wool values and with no competition. The pool, if properly conducted, will give the farmer the benefit of increased competition and expert salesmanship. Those pools that employ the National Wool Warehouse or similar well-organized brokerage houses, to sell their wool for them, are on the right track. A pool properly managed should get full market value for the wool at the time it is sold, no more, no less. It seems that the co-operative selling plan of the Canadians is organized to sell wool and a recent news item shows that they have sold theirs while we have held ours.



A Young Shepherdess

### Looking to the Future

Let us strengthen and increase the number of our grower-owned brokerage houses, and encourage others to start. By law, or otherwise, stop the practice of consignment to dealers. Selling brokers should have no interest in wool but to sell it. Stop cursing the dealer; he has a legitimate use and will be with us for years. The fact that he has been able to compete with the purely brokerage houses shows that he offers a pretty efficient way of selling our wool after all. Require of brokers full reports as to buyers and prices of all wool sold. Get brokers to make reports on the good and bad points of the wool and offer advice as to how it can be improved. Continue ranch grading for the sake of giving the grower a fair idea of the kind of wool he is growing and making it easier for the brokers to account to each man for his own clip.

Let wool growers be honest with each other and give full publicity to prices received either at home or through brokers. This is probably asking too much, for we seem adverse to publicity in regard to the price of our own wool. But if we can't trust each other on this point, price manipulators will reap the benefit.

Also let us study the wool markets of the world. The price of wool in London and not your own cost of production determines the price we shall get. Let us not give up the idea of auction sales.

### MISSOURI TO PROTECT SHEEP

The Missouri state legislature is now considering a dog tax law, whose sponsors claim it will free the country of the sheep killing canine. Because big losses by some, many farmers hesitate about raising sheep. The law proposes a dog tax of \$1.00 on males, and \$3.00 on females. Indications are that it will pass. Dogs in the corn belt kill relatively more sheep than predatory animals in Western states.



## Lamb Feeders' Experience

Better Outlook For Feeders—Lamb and Mutton Consumption  
By James E. Poole

Loss on winter lamb and sheep finishing operations was inevitable when the stuff was put in last fall at prices that made profit in the finality of the transaction impossible. A danger signal was flying at the mast head, but feeders ignored it, laying in thin Western lambs at \$11@12 per hundredweight, despite a comatose wool market and an inevitably lower price level on all commodities. The mistake has been made and weeping over spilled milk never got anybody anything. What the loss will be individually or in the aggregate will never be even approximated. Some Colorado lambs marketed during the February period of demoralization cost feeders anywhere from \$5 to \$7 per head. This disaster will be mitigated to some extent by the favorable turn taken by the market subsequently and there is a bare possibility that late feeding will show a profit. Many feeders, who waded in too deep have lost all or part of their previous profits. That the business has started on the highway to ruin is a preposterous assumption. This bad season breaks a chain of profitable years and in the case of the average farmer feeder nothing akin to disaster has happened. Sheep and lamb feeders have fared no worse than beef makers; both made the same mistake, when thin stock was put in last fall.

The heavy lamb has been a distinct disappointment. One reason is that the public is sidestepping heavy meats of all kinds; another that pelts have no immediate value. A year ago killers bought for wool. At present that commodity is the last thing they want, in fact, they have not been pulling wool to save labor outlay. Had wool trade been anything like normal the 100-pound lamb would have been equal to a more creditable performance at the market. Feeders are in a measure to blame as, despite lack of demand for wool, they assumed that last winter's market would repeat. As a result there has been a constant excess of

heavy lambs; a paucity of 75@85-pound stuff on which demand has centered, creating an absurdly wide spread. Appraising choice heavy lambs at sheep prices may savor of inequity, but the law of supply and demand is inexorable. This lesson in the school of experience will probably prompt feeders to avoid the heavy lamb next year.

The Colorado situation grew so desperate at the middle of February that Senator W. A. Drake, S. F. Webster and H. W. Farr met the packers in conference at Chicago. Stabilizing the market was discussed. The packers, who had been apprised of discontent in feeding circles and the fact that lamb finishers attributed low prices largely to imports of frozen New Zealand meat, poured oil on the water by announcing their determination to ship a large proportion of that stuff to England; also to send trial shipments of heavy lambs on the boat to the British market, where quality and weight in combination are appreciated. Subsequent price recovery indicated that the inference had exerted a psychologically beneficial influence at least. Packers advised checking the movement from feed to primary markets for a few days, a suggestion that was acted upon with beneficial results.

At this writing, March 1st, the situation and the prospect both warrant a reasonable degree of optimism. Pork, which has been on a bargain counter all winter, is advancing and demand for both lamb and mutton increasing. The myriad native sheep and lambs thrown overboard by the farming element in disgust over the collapsed wool market are no longer a serious menace and as the bulk of the visible supply is in Colorado and Nebraska feed lots it can be conserved in such a manner as to stabilize prices.

Now that liquidation of farm flocks has run its course it will be logical to expect better conditions at the market.

Little shearing is being done, at

least for the express purpose of securing wool, as demand for that commodity is negligible and the spread between wooled and shorn stock is too narrow to justify the operation on a speculative basis, especially when expense is reckoned with. Ticky sheep on feed will be shorn and as hot weather approaches taking the wool off will be good seasonal custom, but as for holding wool nobody is in that mood. Let the packer have it, is the motto of the average feeder. Wool trade sentiment may be more optimistic, but none of the dealers' agents mooching around feeding stations near Chicago have so far opened their mouths concerning what they are willing to pay for the few clips that have been taken off. They are looking for consignment business which insures commissions and storage, offering inducement in the shape of free storage for two or three months.

A recent development is renewal of demand for breeding ewes, in a limited way, of course. Kentucky and Tennessee have been picking up pregnant ewes, thousands of which went to the shambles during January and February. These young ewes could have been bought by farmers at \$4@5 per hundredweight, and packers took thousands at \$3.50@4.50, buying them under protest. Their disappearance should not concern the Western grower as it means so many fewer native lambs to demoralize the market during the last half of 1921.

Speculation in ovine stock has practically ceased. What the slump has done to the speculative feeder would make a harrowing story. One operator, who was a packer buyer three years ago, was credited with having accumulated a round million by a series of successful and pyrotechnical deals a year ago; now he is said to be broke, having marketed the last of a band of 25,000 Montana wethers that cost \$15 per head last fall and around \$20 laid down at Chicago during January and February. They started at \$6.25 per hundredweight, slumped to \$4.75, and recovered to \$6.85 per hundredweight.

(Continued on page 41.)

## Around the Range Country

### CONDITIONS IN IDAHO

The mildest winter in the history of Idaho made its exit on February 28th, and the first week of March brought us the most delightful spring weather for many years. On March 6th the grass is now green and in favored spots the ewes and lambs have been on the range for nearly a week. Another week like this and all of Idaho's February lambs will be turned out. This will be the earliest in history.

The lamb crop so far is very heavy from the standpoint of per cent. Many outfits are half done lambing and have marked 125 per cent. Naturally this high average cannot be maintained, but unless storms come we will save the largest per cent of lambs in ten years. The lambs are big and strong, all due to the fact that the ewes have wintered well and were fat at lambing time. Ninety-five per cent of the Idaho outfits have lambled on alfalfa hay without any grain at all. This is something new, for we have always thought that grain after lambing was necessary—it isn't.

Very few ewes have changed hands and very few are for sale. I know of about 25,000 yearling ewes for sale in Idaho, but there is a demand for many times that number. No prices have been fixed, but any kind of a decent ewe two or three years old could not now be contracted at less than \$9.00 out of the shearing shed. I know of some at that price, but none cheaper.

Most of the growers who figured they were going broke are now about out of the woods and the banks and loan companies will carry them through. A long distance prediction indicates that Idaho lambs will be moving to market late in June and the financial situation will then be relieved in Idaho.

S. W. McClure.

### DRY IN ARIZONA

Conditions are not at all good in the southern ranges of Arizona. Rain is sadly needed. Sheep have been on "straight browse" for the past sixty days. Some sheepmen are already feeding corn or cottonseed cake. Lambing is in full swing. At present, however, we are thinking more about rain than market conditions.

H. J. Gray.

Phoenix, Arizona.

We are having the longest dry spell that has occurred in years. The sheep, however, are in fairly good condition. Lambing, which is in full blast, is being done on green feed and pastures, which come very high.

We are all looking for things to right themselves in due time. All the grower has to do is to keep on staying. It was said in one of your recent issues that the beginner was the only one that was doing any "blatting," but I notice as this drouth continues, there are a great many old timers here commencing to "blat" also.

P. D. Etchandy.

Phoenix, Arizona.

### SHEEPMEN ARE GAME AT YAMPA, COLORADO

There are only about 3,000 head of sheep being wintered in this section this winter, but they are doing exceptionally well.

Hay is plentiful, of good quality and



A Maternity Ambulance

cheap, and is being fed lavishly to the ewes. They are bred to lamb in April and May, and from all present indications there will be a fine lamb crop.

It is thought that our high forest ranges will be fully taken up as usual, which will necessitate shipping in probably 30,000 head of sheep.

The stockmen here, while having lost heavily, are not particularly downhearted and are hopeful about the future. At any rate, they are game and hitting the ball.

Yampa, Colo. E. E. Stephenson.

### WINTERED WELL IN OREGON

We have had one of the best winters in this part of Oregon that we have had for years. The grass has grown practically all winter, and there has not been much snow. Stock are looking good. They were in good condition in the fall and there has been plenty of hay all winter and there will be lots left over. People could not sell their hay this year. Some farmers seem to be discouraged while others seem to think things will open up pretty soon. The sheep business does not look any too well just now, but we are holding on and looking for things to turn most any day.

J. E. Butler.

Service Creek, Oregon.

After two years of unusually dry weather, California has had a normal winter. Our sheep have been on hay since November 16th, about three weeks earlier than usual, and are in splendid condition. Some shed lambing is done here in January and February. This makes good lambs, but seldom a satisfactory percentage. One of the greatest advantages is docking before blow flies are in action. We used the Ellenwood Docking Irons last spring and found we had less fly trouble than ever before, as the wound heals much more quickly than a knife cut.

Taylorsville, Calif. J. R. Peter.

# Stockyard and Packer Practices in Handling Lambs

Queries from the Sale of the Ballard Lambs—Swift & Co.'s Reply

In the November Wool Grower, under the title, "Suggestions from a Washington Shipper," Mr. C. H. Ballard wrote of his experiences and impressions gained while marketing his 1920 lambs at Chicago. Some of his criticisms reflected upon Swift and Co., from whom the Wool Grower received a contribution replying to Mr. Ballard. At our suggestion, Mr. Ballard has given further particulars regarding his shipments, and Mr. O. C. E. Matthies, of Swift and Company's Commercial Research Department, has commented thereon in respect to stockyards' and packers' practices.

## Mr. Ballard's Statement.

One particular lot of lambs that we had in at this time was an eleven-car lot, all bred, raised and grown in same locality, and under the same conditions. Five cars of these lambs went in on October 27 and out of the 1,323 head, one of the packers took 662 head, or one-half of them, averaging 75 pounds, at \$13 per hundredweight, the balance selling for feeders at \$12.65. On the following day, the balance of this lot, 6 cars, 1,610 head, went in, Swift and Company taking 532, averaging 75.9 at \$12.50 per hundredweight. The quotations from Chicago Daily Drovers Journal show that the market had advanced 50 cents per hundredweight over the previous day, but we were taking 50 cents per hundredweight less on a heavier sort, which made a "spread" of \$1.00 per hundredweight on the same kind of a lamb in twenty-four hours' time. The balance of 680 head sold as feeders at \$12.75, getting a benefit of the advance of 10 cents per hundredweight.

There was carried over until the next day 398 head, Swift and Company taking a sort of them, 109 head averaging 76 pounds at \$11.00 per hundredweight and 39 head at \$8.50. Now, as to the 109 head which they bought at \$11.00 per hundredweight, the same average weight lambs, out of the same lot and apparently the same in every way, sold two days before for \$13.00

per hundredweight and the day previous for \$12.50. What happens to the "spread" and who gets the benefit of it? This lamb must carry the same by-product value as his brother but he brings the grower \$1.32 less per head and costs the packer dressed weight  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents less per pound. Does he go through the cooler tagged at  $3\frac{1}{2}$ c per pound less than his brother and does the consumer get the benefit of a lower price? This was all done within two days' time on an apparently advancing market. This is the reason for my question, "Why is the same kind of a lamb worth today \$2.00 less than he was yesterday, etc.?"

I could cite a number of instances similar to these and they all lead up to the same point: Who gets the benefit of this "spread?" If the market has not "gone off one or two dollars over night," what has happened to it? Is the market, the amount the grower receives for his stock, or the quotations in the Chicago Daily Drovers Journal?

Since Swift and Company in their letter made comparisons with the year 1919, I might also be privileged to cite an incident that took place in that year.

On June 23 and 24, 1919, we had nine cars of yearling wethers on the market. These wethers were as alike as peas in a pod. Three cars of them, 692 head, went in on the 23rd, 650 head, averaging 102 pounds and selling for \$10.75 per hundredweight, with 42 head out averaging 103 pounds at \$8.50 per hundredweight. The balance of six cars, 1,389 head, going in on the 24th, 1,300 head averaging 102 pounds, selling for \$10.50 per hundredweight, and 89 head averaging 99 pounds selling for \$8.25. The same packer taking the larger lot each time and the same packer taking the smaller lot each day. Did these wethers that brought the grower \$2.25 less per head go through the cooler tagged  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound lower than their brothers? The reason for the small bunches selling for less was that one bunch was "too light"

and the other bunch was "too heavy." The terrible condition of the dressed mutton trade in Jersey was given as a reason for the cut of 25 cents per hundredweight, so they must "anticipate" and as far as I was able to find out, it proved very profitable, as next week by the time these wethers could reach the East, the terrible condition had passed and mutton had advanced, so this proved to be a case of playing both ends against the middle. This was all done in the face of short receipts, as understood that outside of a few cars of lambs direct on the 24th, there was nothing in the yards except about 15 cars of Washington wethers.

I believe that similar problems have perplexed all shippers and that they would appreciate some solution.

## Explanation by Swift and Co.

Mr. Ballard starts out on the premise that during last October he shipped eleven cars of lambs to the market, which had all been bred, raised and grown in the same locality and under the same conditions, and, therefore, he reasons that each lamb in that lot was of like quality and should have brought the same price. Yet the sale records show that out of the total number of 2,683 lambs contained in that eleven-car shipment, 1,341 lambs, or one-half of the total shipment, did not prove to be desirable as killers but had to be sold to feeders.

The fact is that these lambs had been held too long on the range. Lambs that are held too long lose what is known as their "milk fat," or to put it in another trade vernacular, they were dried out and therefore of undesirable quality.

His main complaint, however, has to do with the prices obtained for the lambs which were sold as killers. He claims he cannot understand why some of these lambs sold on October 27th brought \$13.00 per hundredweight from one of the packers and that some of the lambs on the next day were

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## The Australian Wool Plan

From Our Special Correspondent

The talk of the moment is the new scheme put forward for dealing with the wool situation, and I pass on to you at once a precis of particulars published in the Sydney press explaining the scheme—which has been approved by a large conference representing the Central Wool Committee, state wool committees, wool selling brokers, wool growers, etc.

The original contract for the sale of Australian wool clips to Great Britain provided for the payment to the grower of a flat rate of 31 cents a pound plus half of profits made on the resale of any wool not required for military purposes. The Imperial Treasury advanced the 31 cents a pound immediately the wool was appraised and the pool recouped the treasury out of the proceeds of the sales. The position today is that, after paying a dividend of about \$30,000,000 to Australia as a half share of the profits made up to March 30, 1919, the Imperial Treasury has been paid back all the money it advanced, and the wool account is slightly in credit. In other words, every penny received for the sale of wool still in the pool will be profit, and will, under the original contract, be divisible equally between the Imperial government and the Australian grower.

Under the scheme approved by the conference, if it is agreed to by the British authorities, the sale of the remainder of the wool will be surrendered by Britain, political interference will be eliminated, both in Australia and in London, and the disposal of the wool will be placed in the hands of a directorate appointed by the Australian growers.

The proceeds of each bale sold, after deducting expenses, will be divided between the Imperial authorities and the proposed Australian association. In effect, the grower, under this scheme, will be taking half his share of the profits—represented by the assets of the pool after the Imperial Treasury has been paid—in kind, instead of waiting until the assets are realized, and

drawing his share in cash as was contemplated under the original contract.

One important advantage under the new scheme is that it will give the grower a negotiable security in the form of shares in the proposed concern in place of the prospect of an unknown profit, which he might not receive for some years to come. It is estimated that Australia's share of the assets in the pool to be taken over by the proposed association will be worth approximately \$125,000,000.

The Imperial authorities have not as yet agreed to the scheme, but it is safe to assume that it would not have been promulgated without unofficial assurance that no hitch would arise in that quarter, anyhow the scheme has now been submitted to Great Britain by cable.

Every grower who contributed wool to the Imperial pool in any one of the four seasons during which it operated will be entitled to shares in the proposed organization, which is to be called the British-Australian Wool Realization Association, Limited, in proportion to the appraised value of his clip. It is proposed that his interest in the association should be given him, half in debenture stock and half in shares. Both the debenture stock and the shares will be negotiable, but the debenture stock will be a first charge on the proceeds of the sale of the wool, and will, therefore, always be worth its full face value. The value of the shares, however, will depend upon the prices ultimately obtained for the wool.

The appraised value of all wool contributed to the pool was \$799,481,980. As the capital of the proposed organization is to be approximately \$125,000,000, each grower can roughly estimate the value of his interest at a little less than one-sixth of the appraised price of all the wool which he put into the pool. One of the strongest arguments in favor of the proposed acceptance of Australia's share of profits in kind is that it will re-

move the danger of the British government being compelled by political pressure to release the carry-over wool at reduced prices, which would inevitably be reflected in the prices obtained for the current and future Australian clips.

Sir John Higgins, chairman of the Central Wool Committee, in announcing the scheme emphasized the fact that it related only to the disposal of carry-over wools, amounting to approximately 2,000,000 bales. It did not cover wools of the current clip, although the method employed for the disposal of carry-over wool must reflect on sales of the current clip, hence the desirability of some form of co-operation and co-ordination for the protection of Australian wools in general. "The problem to be solved," said Sir John Higgins, "is the realization of carry-over wool without prejudicing the marketing of the current and future clips. With the stringency in the money markets of the world, the incidence of exchange between countries, and labor and political troubles some departure from the customs of pre-war trade is necessary. If we cannot dispose of Australian carry-over wool and obtain wholly cash, it is advisable, in fact almost compulsory, to accept terms from bona fide manufacturers who will convert the raw wool into manufactured goods. It is both possible and probable to make arrangements for the disposal of large parcels of wool particularly cross-bred, to European governments that would allocate the wool to their manufacturers, and make settlement partly in cash and partly on terms to be arranged. There must be a distinct provision made in any contract entered into that the wool must be converted into finished goods. Speculation in raw wool cannot be given a moment's consideration. Today the carry-over wool could be sold to syndicates of speculators, but that would be a fatal step for wool growers. A syndicate that secured 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 bales of wool

could control and manipulate the Australian wool market for years. Naturally, the Australian grower desires that the carry-over wool should be sold at satisfactory prices, in fact, within reasonable bounds, the higher the price the better. Excessive quotations, such as those ruling at the beginning of the year, however, do not tend towards stabilization, which is the desideratum of both growers and users of wool." It is probable that an effort may be made by parties interested to bring pressure to bear on the British government to dispose of carry-over wools for whatever price they may bring. Forced sales of carry-over wools in competition with the auctioning of current clips would spell disaster. It is easily understood that certain politicians may agitate for cheap wool and clothing for the British people, quite ignoring the effect that such a course might have on Australian wool growers if prices were forced below the cost of production.

If the new organization is launched it would be registered in Victoria, with its head office in Melbourne. Its capital would be, say \$125,000,000, in 25,000,000 shares of \$5 each (representing present Australian interests, partly in cash, wool and other assets). It is proposed to make issues to Australian growers and others interested in the scheme as follows:

Half their interest in debenture stock and half in shares in the association. The debenture stock could be valued at par, but the ultimate value of the shares would depend largely on the actual realization of the wool. The directorate would consist of nine members, five in Australia and four in London, with an advisory council of, say three members from each state.

Weather is exceptionally fine in North Dakota. I have lived here for eighteen years and this is the first year we have used wagons as early as February 12th. It has not been necessary to do any sheep feeding so far and you can not sell hay at any price. Last year I fed 150 tons of hay to 550 head of sheep, so it seems pretty nice this year.

Powers Lake, N. D. Wm. Lucy.

## Imported Frozen Lamb Business Declining

Hardly had announcement been made that at least part of the heavy stock of frozen New Zealand lamb and mutton in Atlantic seaboard storage would be transferred to the British market than domestic live mutton trade wiggled out of the rut in which it had been traveling. A physical change at the market was followed by improvement in a psychological sense. The slump of the first half of February had literally destroyed the morale of mutton finishers, consequently a prospect of eliminating at least part of the frozen stock aroused mild enthusiasm. If it is significant that each boat load of New Zealand stuff reaching New York and Boston demoralized the domestic market, equally so was the effect of the news that the burden was to be reduced. A herald of this was carried by announcement that 25,000 carcasses had been sent to Liverpool. A few days later and on the eve of a conference between packers and Colorado feeders Armour told the trade that 500,000 carcasses had been booked to go to London and Liverpool where prices had gradually advanced to a higher level than on this side. Up to March 1st approximately 22,000,000 pounds of frozen New Zealand stuff was scheduled to go to England, of approximately 78,000,000 pounds, representing an increase of 10,000,000 pounds during the past month, small consignments arriving from South America and packers being under the necessity of freezing the carcasses of heavy lambs, the trade could not absorb at the moment. How burdensome this stock is may be inferred from the fact that only 7,787,000 pounds of frozen lamb and mutton were in stock a year ago.

Doubtless the principal reason for exporting this frozen meat was the fact that it can be sold to better advantage on the other side of the Atlantic than here. But packers make no secret of their anxiety to be rid of the whole package. Cupidity was the instigator of the import campaign which promised substantial profit at

the time New Zealand stuff was bought from the British government. But the American consumer never did show partiality for the frozen stuff and its movement into distributive channels was sluggish. Each consignment as it reached New York served to further demoralize the domestic market where prices dropped to the lowest level since October, 1915, by the middle of February when exporting furnished relief. That packers have had their belly full of New Zealand frozen meat will not be disputed. Had they been content with introducing a few million pounds, results would have been less disastrous but when several million frozen carcasses were dumped into the domestic market hopper and the stuff was distributed all over the country damage was done to the domestic industry that may prove irreparable.

There is a crumb of consolation for the domestic producer in the fact that this enormous mass of frozen meat was an accumulation of the war period which will probably never be repeated, consequently the menace has spent its force and is passing. Likewise there is consolation in the manner in which the British public has consumed that part of the accumulation allotted to that market and is now taking a generous percentage of the United States allotment. Verily the Britain is a prodigious mutton eater. What the performance of the domestic market would have been without the handicap imposed by imports of New Zealand stuff must be left to conjecture; it certainly would have acted no worse.

Packers resent an imputation that they are sending New Zealand frozen meat to the British market in consequence of Federal indictments, stating that the sole reason is that it can be sold in England for more money. It will be remembered that Armour was indicted in New York October 21st last on a charge of selling New Zealand lamb costing 18.46 cents per pound at 24@26 cents. As a matter of fact, while some of the New Zealand stuff landed at the Atlantic seaboard during

the period of high prices last year sold at a profit, the experiment has been unprofitable if not disastrous, figuring in red ink on packers' books to a large amount. The meat never has been popular with distributors or the public. The Englishman may have a taste for frozen lamb and mutton, but it does not exist on this side of the Atlantic and will probably never be acquired, especially if it is necessary for the big packers to do the cultivating, as the last thing they want to hear about is foreign frozen lamb and mutton. Recently the stuff has accumulated, even hotel and restaurant trade balking at using it, so that the owners eagerly availed themselves of an opportunity to ship it to London and Liverpool.

The "real story" of this importation of frozen New Zealand lamb and mutton will probably never be published. That it was "bad business" will not be disputed as the importation and consequent demoralization of the domestic market was responsible for a wave of resentment among producers that became distinctly audible at Washington. The more or less plausible explanation of necessity for handling the meat was that the Vesteys, a prominent British concern, would have done so, otherwise, and that North American packers were in a position to feed it into distributive channels, avoiding demoralization. Results show that demoralization was a logical sequence of the importation.

J. E. POOLE.

We have had one of the mildest winters with the least snow up to date of any winter since I came to Montana 35 years ago. Stock is in fine condition. No feeding has been done so far, which is quite different from one year ago when we were paying \$40 to \$50 per ton for hay to save our stock. It will take years for stockmen to get from under the burden with low-priced wool, mutton and beef.

V. F. Blankenbaker.

Virgelle, Mont.

## With the State Associations

### LOWER ASSESSMENTS IN WASHINGTON

A reduction of 50 per cent in the rate of value for ewes of standard breeding and for the general run of bucks has been agreed upon by assessors of Washington. Ewes will be valued at \$6 and for taxation purposes the rate will be \$3, while bucks will be valued at \$4 and for taxation purposes the rate will be \$2. Last year the taxes were based on a \$12 valuation. The reduction was secured because of the slump in the wool industry, it was announced by President Thomas Drumheller of the Washington State Woolgrowers Association.

### THE ARIZONA WINTER MEETING

The mid-winter meeting of the Arizona Woolgrowers Association was held in Phoenix, Arizona, February 5, 1921. Representative flockmasters from all "sheep" counties were in attendance. The meeting was given over entirely to matters vital to the sheep industry at this time and season. Hugh E. Campbell, president of the association, briefly summarized the proceedings of the annual convention of the National Woolgrowers Association held in Salt Lake City, January 17, 18, and 19, 1921. A copy of the resolutions adopted at that meeting was read by F. W. Perkins, secretary of the Arizona Woolgrowers Association.

Most of the forenoon session was taken up in deciding on a scale of wages for herders. It was brought out in this discussion that sheep owners in Arizona are paying from \$50.00 to \$75.00 per month to this class of help. All differences of opinion on the matter were finally harmonized upon the adoption of an agreement to reduce the wages of all herders to \$40.00 per month beginning June 1st, and to pay not to exceed \$45.00 per month to new herders employed prior to that time. It was further agreed upon that the

maximum amount paid for shearing for the season of 1921 be 10 cents per head, the shearers to board themselves.

A bill recently introduced in the state senate by Senator Charles E. Burton of Yavapai County, designed to facilitate and regulate the grazing and trailing of sheep on the open ranges, was recommended for passage by the association.

The resolutions adopted by the National Woolgrowers Association at the annual meeting at Salt Lake City, January 17, 18, and 19, 1921, were approved. The French-Capper "truth in fabric bill" was given special endorsement, it being regarded as of very great importance to the sheep industry.

It was voted to contribute the sum of \$400.00 as Arizona's share in a fund of \$11,000.00 being raised by the National Woolgrowers Association to be used in paying the expenses of the officers of that association in their work of safeguarding the interests of woolgrowers generally in the departments at Washington, D. C., and in Congress.

It transpired in a report made to the meeting by C. T. Woolfolk that if the matter were laid before the State Tax Commission and given the undivided endorsement of the woolgrowers from the "sheep" counties a reduction in the assessed valuation of sheep might possibly be secured. J. R. Edgehill, a wool buyer for an Eastern firm, addressed the meeting briefly, saying that the wool market is still in a comatose condition, and that as soon as Congress passes a bill putting a good stiff tariff on wool importations conditions will improve for both growers and dealers, their interests being mutual.

While the outlook for woolgrowers in Arizona has probably not been so discouraging in years, both in a business way and climatically, the general tone of the meeting was optimistic, hopeful even. Not a word of complaint was uttered by any of those in attendance. Every one seemed imbued with the idea of getting back to pre-war



conditions. It was obviously the consensus of opinion that after the present period of readjustment is passed and Congress enacts the much needed legislation regulating the importations of wool and frozen lamb, the sheep business generally will enter the most prosperous period in its history.

Senator Hugh E. Campbell, who has served the Arizona Woolgrowers Association faithfully and efficiently as president for years, was congratulated by his many friends on his election as western vice-president of the National Woolgrowers Association at the annual meeting held recently in Salt Lake City. The honor thus accorded Senator Campbell came to him unsolicited and is a fitting appreciation for the valuable services he has rendered the woolgrowers in a general way both in Arizona and throughout the West.

The government officials in attendance at the meeting were T. C. Hoyt, supervisor, Sitgreaves National Forest, Snowflake, Arizona; J. M. Girdner, deputy supervisor, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff, Arizona; Bert Haskett, district inspector for the Bureau of Animal Industry, Flagstaff, Arizona; M. E. Musgrave, predatory animal inspector for the Biological Survey, Phoenix, Arizona.

Committees were appointed by President Campbell as follows: On resolutions, A. A. Johns, John Hennessy, C. E. Howard, C. T. Woolfolk and C. Hess; on legislation, A. A. Johns, E. A. Sawyer, E. H. Duffield, John Hennessy and George Scott.

The next meeting of the association will be held in Flagstaff in July, the date to be announced later.

BERT HASKETT.

### THE WENAHU WOOL GROWERS MEETING

Ben Dickinson of Dayton was re-elected president of the Wenaha Wool Growers Association at its annual meeting in Walla Walla, February 5, which was far from cheerful. It was stated that 22 of the 59 members of the association, or about 39 per cent,

have been forced out of the wool business and have engaged in other lines, as a result of the slump in prices. The members at the meeting looked for little improvement in the near future. They attacked the present method of figuring Federal income tax as being too complicated, and protested against the proposal for a state income tax law. No definite wage scales were decided upon, but individual members asserted that \$60 to \$75 per month is the limit for herders and that shearers will do well to get 10 cents per head.

G. N. Angell.

### THE CONVENTION OF THE BIG HORN BASIN WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The adoption of resolutions making decided cuts in the wage scale, and the appointment of a committee to study the possibilities of organizing a stock owners' association to include both the sheepmen and cattlemen of the Big Horn Basin made up the principal business transacted at the annual convention of the Big Horn Basin Wool Growers Association, which met at Lovell, Wyoming, March 3rd and 4th.

The attendance was lighter than usual, and those who were there reported that many who had attended in former years were compelled to stay with their sheep.

The wage resolution made the following maximum scale: (which is in fact a cut of about \$20 per month in the wages of herders, to take effect immediately.) Herders, \$60 per month until July 1st; after July 1st, \$40 per month; lambing hands, \$2 per day and board; lambing foremen, \$2.50 per day and board; ranch hands, \$40 to \$50 per month, including board; exclusive irrigators, \$60 per month and board; wranglers at shearing pens, \$2 and board; wool trappers and wool tiers, \$3 and board; shearers, 11½ cents per head without board, board to be charged for at the rate of \$1 per day. While the resolution was being discussed, a man who had been shearing sheep in the community spoke a few

words, saying that the proposed scale would force him into some other occupation, as he could not shear for what he could make under it. He had not reached his seat until a delegate called for the question and the resolution was adopted without a dissenting vote.

The resolution creating the committee to look into the possibilities of a live stock association that will include cattlemen as well as sheepmen called for a report to the next annual convention. If such an association is feasible it will be incorporated according to law.

J. A. Hill, wool specialist of the State University, gave a paper entitled "Variation in the Fleece Weight in Range Sheep." In this he showed the wide difference in weight and value between the heaviest and the lightest fleeces produced by the average Wyoming flock, and the possibilities this variation offers for the increase of wool production by culling and selection in the ewe flock. He gave tables showing the results of actual weighings of range fleeces as they come from the shearing board. At the end of the convention he went with the sheepmen to the sheep barns of the Great Western Sugar Company at Lovell and gave a demonstration of his method of judging a range ewe for wool.

The officers of last year were re-elected, A. L. Pearson of Cody, president, and J. M. Snyder of Lovell, secretary. Thermopolis was selected as the place in which to hold the next annual meeting.

Resolutions were passed calling on the new Congress for quick action on the Fordney bill, asking the state authorities for a more just valuation on grazing land for the purposes of taxation, and for a reduction of the rental on state owned grazing lands, protesting against any increase in the grazing fees on the National Forests, expressing gratitude to the bankers of Wyoming for their support during the financial crisis, and commending the Wyoming legislature for its action in putting the "Truth in Fabrics law" on the statute books of the state.

### WYOMING'S FABRIC LAW

The text of the law now on the statute books of Wyoming appears below:

1. Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming.

2. Section 1. Every person, firm or corporation selling or offering for sale in this state any cloth, fabric, garment or article of apparel containing wool or purporting to contain wool, or displaying in this state any sample of cloth, fabric, garment or article of apparel containing wool or purporting to contain wool shall place thereon a conspicuous label in one of the three following forms:

1. All Virgin Wool.
2. Not less than — per cent virgin wool.
3. No virgin wool.

Virgin wool is wool which previous to its use in the labeled article never has formed any part of any cloth, fabric, garment or article of apparel. In the event that any article is labeled in the form indicated as number "2" above, the blank in such form shall be filled in with some percentage. Provided, however, that in labeling any garment or article of apparel which contains lining, facing or trimming, the label shall not be taken to refer and shall not refer to the lining or facing or trimming or the percentage or percentages of wool contained therein.

Section 2. Any firm, person or corporation who shall violate any part of this act or who shall by label state that the labeled article contains a greater percentage of virgin wool than it does contain shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The legislatures of Utah and Montana considered bills more far-reaching in character than that passed in Wyoming, but failed to pass them. The Wyoming law is the first of its kind to be made effective in the United States.

The French-Capper bill introduced in Congress in January, 1920, was reported back, with alterations, to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Houses, and that advances on wool be made upon negotiable receipts, issued by such warehouses.



Professor John A. Hill, Wool Specialist, University of Wyoming.

Professor Hill is the writer of "How Shall the Wool Grower Market His Wool" on page 15 of this issue. For several years Professor Hill has held the position of Wool Specialist in the University and the Agricultural Experiment Station of Wyoming. Prior to taking up that work he took a full course in the Philadelphia Textile School and on his own account made a thorough study of wool matters in the markets and mills of the East.

In his experimental work at the university and in educational work around the state, Professor Hill has been a close observer and a careful and scientific student of the problems of wool production and marketing. This is shown in the impartial analysis of conditions and in the constructive and practical suggestions contained in his contribution to this month's issue. He will contribute more frequently to the Wool Grower in the future. Readers are invited to send questions to this office to be answered by Professor Hill. Samples of wool received will be referred to him for comments on grade, shrinkage and breeding necessary to effect improvement.

Commerce from the sub-committee to which it had been referred. It did not come to a vote before the close of the session.

### MONTANA BANKERS ASSOCIATION APPROVES CONSIGNMENT OF WOOL

A special committee of the Montana Bankers Association, consisting of P. B. Bartley, Roy J. Covert, S. McKennan, R. F. Smith, Lee M. Ford and A. C. Johnson, met with a committee of wool growers at Helena, on February 14th, 1921, for the purpose of considering the wool situation.

The amount of wool on hand, the rate of consumption, the coming season's clip, the present market conditions were all carefully discussed by the joint committee. Careful discussion was given to the details of the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company plan, under which plan wool is shipped to a licensed Federal warehouse and a negotiable warehouse receipt showing the storage, the grading if any, the insurance, the charges, etc., is issued; such a receipt then becoming immediately available for collateral as representing the storage of a commodity, under government supervision. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, we believe that the interests of the wool growers and the bankers alike will be best served by an orderly marketing of wool, so that the demand may be met as it arises instead of dumping the entire clip on the market at one time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana Bankers Association, through its special committee on wool, approve the plan of the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company for marketing wool by shipment to licensed Federal warehouses and the issuance of negotiable warehouse receipts, and that the bankers of the state be urged to recommend to their wool growing customers that in the absence of a satisfactory cash market for wool at shearing time, they ship to licensed Federal ware-

### TEXAS WOOL WAREHOUSE GOES TO HOUSTON

The location of a bonded wool warehouse in Houston for the concentration of Texas wool, which amounts to approximately 15,000,000 pounds annually, was definitely determined on February 8, when the city council of Houston adopted a resolution leasing to the Binyon-O'Keefe Fireproof Storage Company of Houston, Galveston and Forth Worth, such space as may be required for handling the wool, in warehouse No. 4 at the turning basin of the Houston ship channel.

This action followed a letter to C. V. Jarrell, manager of the industrial department of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, from Walton Peteet of Dallas, director of the marketing organization of the Texas Farm Bureau, who is now in Washington conferring with the Federal Reserve Bank Board working out details for financing the handling of the wool crop in the coming year.

Mr. Peteet said, in substance, that his letter was in confirmation of the conclusion reached at the hearing held in Houston February 3, on which occasion representatives of the ports of Galveston, Houston, Texas City, Orange and Port Arthur presented their claims for the proposed warehouse to a committee consisting of Mr. Peteet, J. E. Boog-Scott of Coleman, member of the marketing committee of the National Farm Bureau Federation and vice president of the Texas Farm Bureau, and W. T. Magee, sheep specialist of the A. & M. College.

In order to handle the wool under the Federal bonded warehouse act, which would enable the wool growers to finance their products, the warehouse would have to be operated by a bonded warehouseman. This requirement was met by leasing the warehouse to the Binyon-O'Keefe Company, which will operate the warehouse for the wool-growers.—Sheep and Goat Raisers Magazine.

### CENTRAL CALIFORNIA SHEEP DOINGS

I just read in one of our daily papers where some of the Eastern states were being swept by snowstorms and blizzards and it did not seem hardly possible when one stops to think of our California climate. We had an open winter as far as cold was concerned with plenty of rain, until about the 20th of February, when the alfalfa started to grow and is making fine feed for the stock. Today, March 1st, finds all the almond trees in bloom, besides some of the apricot and peach trees, which reminds one of the saying often heard about California, "the land of sunshine and flowers."

The weather is so warm and mild at the present time that several of the sheepmen have started shearing their sheep, particularly those who only shear once a year. There is no market here for wool at the present time, but the sheep must be sheared and the growers are expecting the new Congress to give them aid when they meet by passing a tariff law and any others that might relieve the unsettled condition of our country. Some of the shearers have established a price of 12½ cents per head, while others are charging 15 cents, which seems high when you stop to think that there is no market for the wool now and the prospects for the future are not very bright.

A few small bunches of early lambs, November and December, have been contracted for \$7.50 to \$8 per head, that will be choice stuff, while a few other lots were sold for 12 cents per pound. The bulk of the lamb market will not be ready before June first and it is very uncertain what the market will be at that time, but we hope it will be good.

It seems early to begin talking about ram sales for this year, but I might say that we have had inquiry already for two carloads of rams and 100 head of ewes. While we may not sell to any of these parties, it shows that some of our sheepmen have faith in the sheep business and are looking for

better stuff. We have our rams selected for the Salt Lake Ram Sale for this year, and while we have not so many to take this time, the ones that will go will be a very good selection, which I believe is the best way to carry on a ram sale. F. N. Bullard.

Woodland, Calif.

### HEAVY WYOMING EWES, \$5.75

Boyer Bros., T. W. and J. S., of Salt Lake City, Utah, who own a ranch in the Rock Springs section of Wyoming, have been marketing fed ewes in Kansas City. Late in February they had one string of 119-pound ewes that brought \$5.75, and another string weighing 143 pounds at \$5.00. Early in December Boyer Bros. shipped these ewes into Logan County, Kansas, in the northwest part of the state from their Rock Springs ranch, where they fed them. They made good gains and considering the condition of the sheep market during the month they brought a good price. The ewes showed excellent quality. C. M. P.

### TEXAS WOOL GROWERS TO TAKE MEMBERSHIP IN NA- TIONAL ASSOCIATION

In reporting the February 14-15 meeting of the Sheep and Goat Association of Texas, the official publication (Sheep and Goat Raisers' Magazine), states that Secretary Thurmond "recommended membership in the National Wool Growers Association," paying a high compliment to the efficiency and constructive work of the national organization.

The editor of the above magazine advises the Wool Grower that in the ten days preceding March 4, the west Texas country had abundant rains. Sheep and goat men are jubilant. The failure of the Emergency Tariff Bill did not bring discouragement as a similar measure is looked for as one of the first acts of the new administration.



## PREDATORY ANIMAL WORK IN 1921 UNDER THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

### Extract from the Report of Chief of Biological Survey.

A force of skilled hunters and trappers, varying from 300 to 400 in number, were employed under bureau supervision during the year 1919-20 to destroy predatory animals. Apart of these men were paid by the Federal government and a part by co-operating states, counties, live stock associations, and individuals. For this purpose \$272,000 was expended by co-operators in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. As heretofore, the skins taken by each hunter become the property of the organization or individual paying his salary. The numbers and kinds of skins taken by these hunters during the year were as follows:

Wolves .....	523
Coyotes .....	21,558
Mountain lions .....	189
Bobcats .....	2,987
Canada lynxes .....	-10
Bears .....	94
Total .....	25,361

The skins taken by Federal hunters during the year sold for \$42,048.80, making a total to date of \$240,791.65 turned into the United States Treasury in connection with this work.

In addition, extended poisoning operations were conducted over great areas, especially in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. Judging from the dead bodies found, the number of coyotes killed in this way was approximately the same as the total of all animals trapped. It has become evident that systematic poisoning operations on a large scale, employing modern methods under careful supervision, are a most economical and practical means of reducing the number of coyotes. Extended experiments have been conducted both at the Albuquerque, New Mexico, laboratory and on the ranges and forests. Good progress has been made in de-

veloping more effective poisons as well as improved methods of establishing stations and distributing poison for coyotes. These have been successfully applied in organized co-operative campaigns.

In many large grazing ranges, mainly through poisoning followed by systematic trapping, coyotes have been so thoroughly eliminated that sheep owners, with practically no losses, now permit their sheep to graze freely without close herding. Important lambing grounds have been similarly protected so that ewes and lambs are allowed to range freely without being driven to bedding grounds at night. This has made it possible to carry at least one-third more ewes on a lambing ground, to save a higher percentage of lambs dropped, and at the same time to reduce the expense of handling. The practical elimination of coyotes from the range country will result also in a great increase in both the wool and the meat output. In addition to the sheep they kill, coyotes destroy many goats, calves, pigs, and domestic fowls, and are among the most destructive enemies of large and small game, including both birds and mammals. The bobcat ranks next to the coyote in destructiveness to sheep and goats, while wolves, mountain lions, and some bears cause heavy losses of cattle and horses.

Funds from states, counties and stockmen's associations made available for co-operation with the Biological Survey were as follows:

Districts	State & County	Stockmen's Ass'n.	Total
Arizona ..	\$ 13,617.00	\$ 556.00	\$ 14,173.70
Colorado ..	19,846.81	377.67	20,224.48
Montana ..		637.00	637.00
N. Dakota ..	14,440.00		14,440.00
Nevada ..	55,689.76		55,689.76
N. Mex. ..	10,000.00	15,210.33	25,210.33
Oregon ..	5,750.00		5,750.00
Texas ..	20,100.86	21,793.67	41,894.53
Utah ..	75,607.79		75,607.79
Wash. ..	14,284.24		14,284.24
Wyo. ....		4,596.00	4,596.00
Totals ..	\$229,337.16	\$43,170.67	\$272,507.73

The drouth still continues here on February 22nd, and there is no feed at all on the desert. Most of the sheepmen have leased cotton fields or whatever green pasture they can get, the latter being very scarce at present.

Lambing is in full swing. The sheep are generally in fairly good condition, considering the dry period we have had, and from present indications a good percentage of lambs will be saved. We have docked out 110 per cent recently. We use the Ellenwood Docking Iron and believe it is the best and only way to dock lambs.

Glendale, Ariz. J. A. Hactor.

### SWIFT'S "EAT MORE LAMB" CAMPAIGN

In their 1921 Year Book, Swift & Company outlines the scope of their "Eat More Lamb" campaign as follows:

"Swift & Company's 'Eat More Lamb' campaign began August 27, 1919, at Peoria, Illinois. There have been 292 demonstrations held before public school classes, domestic science classes, retail markets, women's clubs, butcher associations and others, with an estimated attendance of 84,250.

"Practically all of our branch houses have been covered in this campaign with the exception of New York City and surrounding country, Philadelphia and surrounding territory, parts of New England, and the Albany district. The work so far has been confined mostly to the southern and western sections of the United States."

### THE ABANDONED SHEEP DOG

The sheep are gone, the camp's no more,

But lying by the bunk house door,  
Old Shep and Collie, once so trim  
Now looking rough, and sad, and grim,  
Keep faithful vigil still.

They longed to follow in your track,  
But you had told them to go back;  
And they obeyed your will.

Nor guessed that when the roaring  
train

Went speeding past them o'er the plain  
It carried you  
Who were untrue

For, in their loyal hearts no thought  
could come

That would have made them go and  
leave a chum.

Nellie King.

Monte Vista, Colo.

# NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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## PACKER LEGISLATION

No laws were enacted by the Sixty-sixth Congress for the regulation of the meat packing industry or stockyards' business. Senator Gronna's bill which passed the Senate in January was warmly debated in the Agricultural Committee of the House. This committee held extensive hearings a year ago and has been at work upon a new bill. It was reported that for some time the votes were evenly divided upon reporting out the bill received from the Senate.

On January 25th, a bill bearing the same title, was reported out of committee. For the body of the bill, however, an entirely different measure was substituted. The new bill, known as the Haugen bill, did not come to a vote. The new Congress will probably see a warm contest between the advocates of the two bills and very likely a compromise measure will become law.

The important features of the Haugen bill are (1) definition of practices that are illegal as affecting competition in the purchase of live stock and sale of live stock products; (2) supervision to be placed in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture who may prescribe the form in which books are kept; (3) provision for court review of orders issued by the Secretary of Agriculture; (4) the stockyards and com-

mission houses are placed under the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## DO YOUR BIT FOR EARLY TARIFF ACTION

The Wool Grower has been stopped while in press to insert the following telegram from President Hagenbarth, dated Boston, March 13th:

Danger that Congress may take up other questions before Emergency Tariff. Have all wool growers wire their Senators and Congressmen immediate action imperative to stop flood imports to already overloaded market. Get banks to do same. Market slow but should improve on announcement Congress act on tariff immediately after meeting April fourth.

## HENRY C. WALLACE, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

The new Secretary of Agriculture was also an editor. In farming and in editorial work, he worked with his late father, well known as a member of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission and as publisher of Wallaces' Farmer at Des Moines, Iowa. Since becoming editor-in-chief of that paper Mr. Wallace has also been prominent in the work of the Corn Belt Meat Producers Association.

Secretary Wallace perhaps does not fully meet the specifications of a "dirt farmer." However, he goes beyond that. He has all the qualifications and experience that a so-called dirt farmer could have and in addition he has earned a large place among country and city folks who think constructively on national and agricultural problems.

As Secretary of Agriculture Mr. Wallace will have among his duties, the exercise of power of the work of the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Animal Industry. The Haugen bill will give him the supervision of the packing industry and he will be the spokesman for agriculture in the President's cabinet.

## THE SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS AND THE TARIFF

The new Congress will be called to meet in special session during the second week of April, according to press reports from Washington. It is also announced that the principal question to be dealt with is adjustment of the tariff.

Wool growers who appeared before Congress last month expected that in the event of defeat of the Emergency Bill; a special session would be called early in March to act upon a similar measure. There was a general demand for a few weeks' interval and except in the case of wool and lemons the postponement of action will not be extremely serious.

Prompt action is to be looked for from the April session. The discussion of the past three months has cleared the air and since March 4th Presidential vetoes of measures for support of American industry need not be considered.

The tariff is not a party question. This the Wool Grower has long maintained and the events of the session just closed prove the statement. There was some Republican opposition to, and considerable Democratic support for the Fordney Bill throughout its course. The significance of this Republican opposition must cause most serious concern to every person who studies American political development of internal affairs. This opposition is not a political matter. It is chiefly a sectional question, and the sections from which it comes are devoted to manufacturing and are inclined to demand high duties upon their products and low duties or no duties upon food and materials for their mills and factories.

Two Republican Senators from New Hampshire, one from New Jersey and one from Rhode Island voted against the Fordney Bill. In the House, on the vote to override the veto, negative votes were cast by Republican members of the committee that framed the bill, from the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

In a sense the situation is a contest between the East and the West. In reality, however, it is a demand for protection of manufacturing without regard to similar claims from agricultural interests and the rural population. This question bids fair to become prominent in national affairs. It is to be hoped that political parties will not seek to espouse the cause or solicit the support of either interest. President Harding, his cabinet, and those with whom he advises at the Capitol and throughout the country are capable of laying out a policy that is first of all, right for the nation and second, that is just to the industries.

All agricultural organizations must bestir themselves to greater efforts to help our city folk realize what agriculture really means to them. The Government can help us in this without injecting itself into what should be private business. The cost of distribution is the big internal American question of today. It is one that calls for action by the consumers and yet the producers are the only ones that have considered it seriously. It is a proper and necessary function of the Government to devise and establish the methods of shortening the route and reducing the expense between the farm and the kitchens of the nation.

### THE EMERGENCY WOOL TARIFF

The last-hour defeat of the Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill came in a way that redounded to the praise of some stalwart American statesmen, both in Congress and out of it.

Chairman Fordney, Congressmen Green, Longworth, Young and other Republicans as well as Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee exhibited a most gratifying appreciation of the proper relation of government to business in promotion of the soundest conditions in the economics of our national existence.

In the upper house, Senators Smoot, McCumber and Borah were chiefly responsible for bringing the bill to a vote. Although Senator Penrose later came to see the urgency of the case the delay occasioned and the burden of the

non-emergency amendments to the bill really accounted for its defeat.

Of the statesmen outside of Congressmen who served notably, none was more conspicuous or forceful than the President of the National Wool Growers Association. In November, 1920, not a half dozen men could be found in America who believed it worth while to try to secure from the old Congress the only remedy that could help the situation as it affected wool growers in a drastic way and other agricultural producers almost as seriously. With the zeal of a prophet and the faith of a martyr he refused to consider defeat. Supported by McClure, Coffey, Wilson and Thurmond, consideration was thrice demanded and finally obtained from a committee that had no thought of action but which arose to meet the crisis and with the prospect of their success prevented a worse condition and prepared the way for immediate action upon the assembling of the new Congress in special session during this month or very early in April. President Hagenbarth is still at Washington and expects to remain until the plans are announced for tariff action by the new Congress.

The list below shows the votes of Senators as recorded on February 16, for and against the bill as amended by the Senate. Senator Warren of Wyoming was recorded as not voting. He was absent from the chamber on im-

portant business when the vote was taken. He voted for the bill in all its earlier stages and was a strong supporter of the measure.

The Senate Bill includes a number of items that were not included when the House passed the bill on December 22nd. It was necessary to send the measure to conference and again vote on it in both houses. It reached the White House on March 1st. Mr. Wilson exercised his veto power the following day. On March 3rd the House voted to override the veto, but failed by 23 votes.

For—Ashurst, Ball, Borah, Brandegee, Capper, Curtis, Elkins, Fall, France, Frelinghuysen, Gay, Gooding, Gronna, Hale, Henderson, Johnson, (Calif.) Jones, (N. M.) Jones, (Wash.) Kellogg, Kendrick, Kenyon, La Follette, Lenroot, Lodge, McCormick, McCumber, McLean, McNary, Myers, New, Penrose, Phipps, Pittman, Poin Dexter, Ransdell, Simmons, Smith, Spencer, Sterling, Sutherland, Townsend, Wadsworth, Willis.

Against—Beckman, Cold, Dial, Edge, Fletcher, Gerry, Glass, Harris, Harrison, Heflin, Hitchcock, Keyes, King, Kirby, McKellar, Moses, Overman, Pomerence, Simmons, Smith, (Ga.) Smith (S. C.) Stanley, Swanson, Thomas, Trammell, Underwood, Walsh, (Mass.) Walsh, (Mont.) Williams, Wolcott.

## What the Association Is Doing

### THE COMMITTEE ON STOCK-YARDS AND COMMISSION HOUSE CHARGES

Messrs. A. E. Kimball, A. J. Knollin and Thomas Austin, representing the National Wool Growers Association, visited the live stock exchanges and the stockyards companies at Denver, Kansas City, Omaha and Chicago during the last week of February.

Two members announced in the February Wool Grower for this committee were unable to serve.

By previous arrangement the committee also met the managers of the

feeding stations located upon the railway lines entering the above markets.

The officials and representatives of the live stock exchanges were fully and plainly informed of the basis of growers' demands for lower selling and yardage charges. In return they were uniformly advised of the very high wages still being paid and the unprecedented expense of doing business. There are prospects for some readjustments before the next shipping season. The committee also canvassed the matter of securing business for an

(Continued on page 28A.)



## WESTERN RAMBOUILLETS EXPORTED TO ARGENTINE

On March 1 a carload of Rambouillet sheep was shipped from New York to Buenos Aires for distribution among sheep breeders and wool growers of the Argentine.

This shipment was selected by F. W. Harding and Mr. Kelly of Buenos Aires from the flocks of W. D. Candland, John K. Madsen and John H. Seely at Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

The Southern Republic has gone to

the extreme in the continued use of long wool blood, principally that of the Lincoln breed. The movement toward the fine wool breeds should be greatly helped by the use of the high class stock in this initial shipment.

Mr. Harding formerly imported Rambouillets from France and Germany, but finds that the South American trade can now best be supplied from American flocks of which those in the Western states represent the highest practical type for wool production under range conditions.

## The Boston Wool Market

More Business at Same Values—Tariff Prospects Check Imports

As February wore away, and it became certain that the Emergency measure could only get to the President in the very last days of his administration, importers began to pay more attention to possible tariff legislation by the incoming Congress, than to what might be accomplished under the Fordney Bill.

Meanwhile, every effort is being concentrated on getting all recent purchases in foreign markets shipped and through the custom house in this country before any measure could become a law. According to the figures compiled at the Boston Chamber of Commerce, total receipts of foreign wool at the port of Boston from January 1 to February 23, 1921, were 32,069,720 pounds, compared with 23,295,070 pounds for the same period in 1920. In a single week, 15,500 bales, or over 5,300,000 pounds, mostly Australian, were entered at the Boston custom house. Steamer Ventura arrived at San Francisco late in the month with a big block of wool in her cargo, while steamer Canadian Prospector is on her way from Australian ports to Vancouver, with 16,300 bales of wool, said to be the largest cargo of the season.

The domestic market has also felt some impulse from the tariff agitation, moderate speculative flurries having followed the passage of the Fordney Bill through the various stages. It is commonly remarked that more trading between dealers has been noted

during the month of February than for a long time previously. In this direction may be classed the taking up of hundreds of bales of the wools left on sale here from the British auctions. One house acknowledges buying 1,500 bales, and another is credited with taking about the same amount. This leaves only a small amount still for sale, and this remainder is the fag end of about 16,000 bales.

As usual in an active market, much of the trading between dealers has been in pulled and scoured wools, inferior and short clothing wools, and such as the woollen mills are likely to call for. Recently a steady and growing demand has been developed in this direction, as one after another, mills of this character have succeeded in getting a moderate volume of orders, and have been forced to come into the market for the necessary wool stock. It is reported in the local wool trade that the woollen mills are carrying unusually small stocks. Instead of having in their storehouses the customary five to six months' supply, many of them are depending upon their current purchases. As these purchases are mainly in small lots, it follows that they must come often to market.

From a condition of intense quiet, the wool trade has slowly rallied, the most encouraging feature, from the wool trade standpoint, being the growing disposition shown by Western owners of consignments held here to

allow their wool to be sold at the market. This has resulted in an increased movement, though it must be said that prices are substantially the same as they were a month ago. The bulk of the transactions has been in fine and fine-medium wools at 75 to 80 cents clean for the best, and 70 to 75 cents for average and inferior clips. The scarcity of fine staple in this season's Territory wool has made buyers keen to get hold of clips of the French combing or fine staple order.

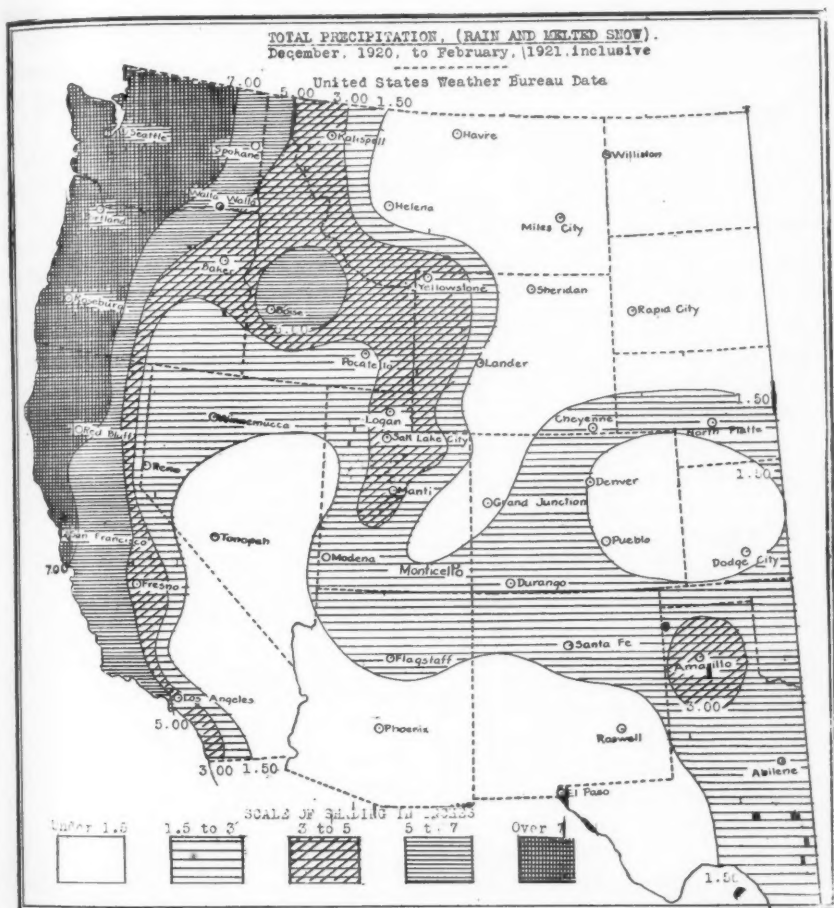
Therefore occasional sales at the top figures are said to have been dependent on the amount of staple, as well as the shrinkage and freedom from burr. Small sales have been recently noted of fine staple at 90 to 95 cents, clean, the higher figure being for choice Montana. Half-blood staple is quotable at 80 to 85 cents, though this grade is rather quiet, compared with fine and fine medium.

Considerable interest has recently been shown by the knitting yarn spinners. Lacking fleeces, which are usually preferred for the best yarns, they have been buying Territory medium staple wools. During the last week in February liberal purchases were made in this market of quarter-blood Territory at 20 to 21 cents in the grease, or 45 to 50 cents clean. Three-eighths-blood Territory has also been moved to some extent, though not with the same freedom as quarter-blood. Sales of this grade have been made at 23 to 25 cents, or 55 to 60 cents clean. Texas wools have sold in a moderate way at 75 cents clean for twelve-months' and 60 to 65 cents for eight-months'. It is rumored that a "distress sale" of the latter grade was recently made at 56 to 57 cents.

The movement of farm wools continues to be restricted by the small stocks available for sale in this market. Few dealers have any selection worthy the name, owing to the "no sale" policy of the farmers and pool managers in the Middle West. Recent sales of Ohio wool in this market have included fine unwashed Delaine at 40 cents, half-blood combing at 34 cents,

(Continued on page 31.)

# The Season's Moisture In Range Territory



The map shows total fall of rains (including water equivalent of snow) for December, January and February. The excess or deficiency at each point is shown in the column at the right.

This has been an unusually good winter on live stock, largely as a result of mild weather and ample precipitation in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and northern parts of California, Nevada and Utah. Conditions have been fairly good in most of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, while in parts of western Texas and southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona the autumn feed production was curtailed by scanty rainfall, and a continuation of the scarcity of moisture through the winter months has limited the use of the range to the detriment of the stock.

The accompanying table presents the accumulated precipitation and departure from the normal for the winter, the amounts being above normal in northern California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and locally over the Rocky Mountain and Plains states. Deficiencies were more or less pronounced and important in the southern portions of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California, and in parts of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The accompanying chart depicts the geographical distribution of the total winter precipitation.

## EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY OF MOISTURE AT VARIOUS POINTS

### PRECIPITATION ON THE WESTERN LIVE STOCK RANGES DURING DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

United States Weather Bureau Data  
Precipitation (Inches)

STATIONS.	Dec. to Feb., inc.	Departure from Normal
<b>WASHINGTON:</b>		
Walla Walla	6.58	+0.89
Spokane	6.30	-0.54
Seattle	14.42	+1.64
<b>OREGON:</b>		
Roseburg	14.25	-0.61
Portland	23.25	+3.78
Baker City	3.94	-0.27
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>		
Los Angeles	5.09	-3.56
Fresno	4.31	-0.15
San Francisco	15.16	+2.89
Red Bluff	14.74	+2.69
<b>NEVADA:</b>		
Winnemucca	2.82	-0.14
Reno	2.01	-3.40
Tonopah	0.66	-1.66
<b>ARIZONA:</b>		
Phoenix	0.24	-2.21
Flagstaff		
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>		
Santa Fe	2.52	+0.33
Roswell	0.64	-1.03
<b>TEXAS:</b>		
Amarillo	4.02	+1.71
Abilene	2.85	-0.29
El Paso	0.83	-1.13
<b>MONTANA:</b>		
Helena	0.85	-1.62
Kalispell	3.18	-1.72
Havre	1.28	-0.51
Miles City	1.30	-0.26
Williston, N. D.	0.67	-1.04
<b>IDAHO:</b>		
Boise	5.19	+0.16
Pocatello	2.91	+0.54
Lewiston	3.57	-0.87
<b>UTAH:</b>		
Logan	4.21	-0.19
Salt Lake City	3.88	-0.09
Manti	3.76	+0.53
Monticello	2.26	-2.42
Modena	1.68	-0.83
<b>WYOMING:</b>		
Yellowstone	3.37	-2.53
Sheridan	1.16	-1.05
Lander	1.27	-0.51
Cheyenne	2.40	+1.13
Rapid City, S. D.	1.33	-0.03
North Platte, Neb.	1.64	+0.30
<b>COLORADO:</b>		
Denver	1.49	-0.02
Pueblo	0.86	-0.61
Grand Junction	0.91	-0.65
Dodge City, Kan.	1.48	-0.13

+, above; -, below, normal.

## THE COMMITTEE ON STOCK-YARDS AND COMMISSION HOUSE CHARGES

(Continued from page 27A.)

independent selling agency to do business at the old rates. Final discussion as to action recommended to sheepmen will be announced in these columns as soon as arrived at.

The committee found that there were no complaints on feeding station charges south of Kansas City because no pasturage is furnished at unloading points. Shippers on these lines consider that best results are obtained when lambs are held in the yards and fed the best quality of alfalfa hay. The Western stations have agreed to have a supply of choice alfalfa on hand next summer and fall for those who favor that plan of handling lambs at feeding stations.

## A BOOKLET ON THE WOOL TARIFF

The National Wool Growers Association has published a fifty-page booklet entitled, "The Wool Growing Industry and the Tariff."

This booklet contains the statements submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by the association in support of tariffs on wool, lamb and mutton. It also contains full data regarding production and manufacturing of wool in different countries, as well as the Tariff Commission's figures upon cost of wool production in the Range States.

This material was prepared for publication at the suggestion of Senators and Congressmen, who have experienced difficulty in finding the data and arguments about tariff in concise form. It will not be possible to print very much of this material in the columns of the Wool Grower.

The booklet will be sent without charge to those sending requests for it to this office.

The Wool Grower appreciates receiving from its readers names of any parties who might be interested in becoming subscribers to the paper.

## REPLY OF FOREST SERVICE TO CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS.

Three resolutions pertaining to Forest Service affairs were adopted by the convention on January 19. These were conveyed to the chief forester and on February 3, Acting Forester Sherman defined the position of the service on each of the questions. The resolutions themselves and the replies of the Forest Service are as follows:

### Ten and Twenty Per Cent Cuts

WHEREAS, under the existing financial stress to which the wool growing industry is subjected at this time, making it necessary for many permittees to sell part or all of their land and live stock; and

WHEREAS, the present rules and regulations require that a cut of ten to twenty per cent be made in event of sale or transfer, thereby discouraging buyers, and in cases preventing sale; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we urge the Forest Department to suspend such rules and regulations during the year 1921.

REPLY. This resolution meets with the hearty sympathy of the Forest Service, and instructions will be issued which, while not constituting an actual waiver of the regulation, will at the same time enable the District Foresters to meet the situation in a way which I think will be found to be generally satisfactory.

### Cattle on Sheep Ranges

WHEREAS, for the past few years it has been the policy of the Forest Service to permit cattle to enter some of the forests in advance of the date on which sheep were permitted to enter, and in many instances to graze without restriction on ranges used by sheep, and

WHEREAS, since this policy has been inaugurated, these ranges have been materially depreciated and if this policy is continued, it means a considerable reduction in the number of sheep that will be allotted to such ranges; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we most earnestly urge the officers of the Forest Service to use every effort to find spring range for these cattle on areas other than those to be devoted to sheep grazing and that sufficient summer range for cattle be found without infringing on and destroying existing sheep ranges.

REPLY. This question of early grazing on sheep ranges by cattle is one to which we have given serious consideration and are now making intensive examinations of these ranges with a view to determining the future policy in handling them. It is frankly admitted that certain sheep ranges have been more or less injured through the presence upon them of cattle at a period entirely too early in the spring. Changes have already been made in the entrance dates for cattle on a number of Forests, and as rapidly as information is gathered like changes will be made on other Forests where similar conditions exist. It is believed that this action will remedy the matter covered by this resolution.

### Grazing Fees

WHEREAS, the majority of users of the National Forest are unable to secure sufficient money to meet current expenses; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the National Wool Growers Association, do urgently request Congress to make it possible for the Secretary of Agriculture to defer payment of all grazing fees until August 31, 1921.

REPLY. In accordance with the Forester's suggestion, the Secretary of Agriculture on January 27 authorized the Forester to postpone the date of payment of grazing fees for the season of 1921 until August 1. Instructions have already been issued to all District Foresters to this effect, and I sincerely trust the stockmen will make prompt payment of the deferred fees before the expiration of the date set by the Secretary.

The dates of the Ram Sale are August 29th to September 1st.



## February Sheep Market Review

### CHICAGO SHEEP MARKET IN FEBRUARY

A comparison of conditions at the inception of March and the corresponding period in previous years follows:

Sheep	
Top	Bulk
1921—\$ 7.75	\$ 5.50@ 7.25
1920— 15.00	13.50@14.50
1919— 13.75	11.50@13.50
1918— 13.50	11.25@13.00
1917— 12.50	11.00@12.00
1916— 9.25	7.50@ 8.25
1915— 8.00	7.00@ 7.75
Lambs	
1921—\$11.00	\$10.00@10.75
1920— 20.65	19.25@20.00
1919— 19.00	17.50@18.75
1918— 17.50	16.25@17.15
1917— 14.60	13.50@14.50
1916— 11.50	10.75@11.35
1915— 10.10	9.25@ 9.75

At the middle of February low spot trade was completely demoralized all over the country. Buffalo was constantly glutted, every feed lot adjacent to Chicago was gorged and Colorado feeders were clamorous for opportunity to liquidate. When the low point was uncovered \$8.75 was the practical limit on choice lambs and fat ewes by the thousand sold at \$3.75@4.00. Only those who had stuff on the market at that juncture were in a position to understand conditions. Fat 90 to 100-pound lambs were hard to sell at \$6.50 @7.00 in Chicago; correspondingly lower at the Missouri River and Denver. Lambs weighing over 100 pounds sold at \$5.75@6.25, ewes at \$3.50@4.00, with \$5.00 the limit of handyweights; 100-pound yearlings good enough for any trade were jettisoned at \$5.50 and choice wethers stopped at \$5.25. During the spectacular advance of the last week of February, such heavy lambs as had to sell at \$6.25 on the low spot were marked up to \$9.00, the \$3.50@4.00 grades of ewes advanced to \$5.00 @5.50, and the \$5.00 kind to \$6.75. Yearlings at \$5.50 on the low day were marked up to \$9.50 and the \$5.50 wethers of the bargain sale advanced to

\$7.50. If anything has been long on ruption, but short on stability recently, it has been the sheep market.

Ten primary markets received 942,000 head during the month against 873,000 a year ago, but the excess was piled up during the first two weeks and before the advance began. Chicago February receipts were 334,000 against 284,000 last year and the heaviest for the month since 1914, when 458,000 arrived. During the first two months of 1921 seven markets, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Sioux City and St. Paul received 1,770,000 sheep and lambs, a gain of 125,000 compared with 1920.

#### The First Week

Early in the month choice light lambs dropped below a \$10 basis, stagnancy developing. The first week broke choice lambs 50 cents; heavy grades \$1.00@1.25 per hundredweight. Yearling wethers declined \$1.25@1.50 and mature wethers 50 cents. The slump in yearling stock was vicious, \$6.25 taking the kind worth \$9.50 early in the previous week. Most of the Colorado lambs showed strong weight, selling at \$8.50@9.25. By the end of the week the top on matured wethers was \$4.75, bulk clearing during the week at \$4.60@5.00. Handyweight ewes stopped at \$5.00, with good class at \$4.50 and heavy natives as low as \$3.50. Demand for feeding lambs was practically eliminated, although country buyers had been active all through January. Values broke \$1.00@1.50 per hundredweight, good lambs going out for shearing purposes at \$7.50.

#### The Second Week

The second week a display of stability was made until Thursday when another crash occurred, the week closing with fat lambs \$1.00 lower, yearlings 75 cents lower and sheep 25@50 cents lower. At the bottom of this slump \$9.25 bought choice lambs and that sale had a scratchy appearance, bulk selling at \$8.00@9.00, with culls as low as \$5.50. Medium to good 97@100-pound lambs went over the scales at \$6.00 and 98@100-pound yearlings

at the same figure, heavier yearlings dropping to \$5.50. No matured wethers passed \$5.35 and at the end of the week \$5.00 was the limit on choice 112@114-pound stock. Heavy native ewes went over the scales by the thousand at \$3.50@4.00, handyweights stopping at \$4.75. A few choice feeding lambs went to the country at \$7.50 @7.60, but demand was negligible.

#### The Third Week

Early in the third week the lowest levels of the season were reached. At that stage prices were even lower than back in October, 1915. Declines during the forepart of the week ranged from 25@75 cents per hundredweight, but on Thursday the tide turned, simultaneously with announcement that 500,000 carcasses of frozen New Zealand meat was to be sent from New York and Boston to London and Liverpool. The trade sensed an improvement but not what happened, as the rebound was both violent and sensational. By the end of the week lambs and yearlings had advanced 50 cents, sheep anywhere from 50 cents to \$1.00, practically all of this improvement being scored subsequent to mid-week. Choice hundredweight lambs reached \$9.75, a long string of Colorados went over the scales at \$9.00@9.65, and the bulk of the fat lambs cashed at \$9.00 @9.50. Some good 95-pound lambs had to take \$6.75@7.50 during the week, but discrimination against weight relaxed. Prime 86-pound yearlings reached \$7.25, but 96-pound stock stopped at \$7.00. The first shorn wethers of the season made \$4.25, while 111-pound woolled wethers reached \$5.50. Ewes reached \$5.00, with the bulk at \$4.00@4.75, heavy natives selling at \$3.75. Country demand for lambs for shearing purposes picked up, Michigan shearers paying anywhere from \$6.60 to \$7.60.

#### The Last Week

The last week developed a runaway market. Fat lambs advanced anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per hundredweight, yearlings and heavy lambs showing a gain of \$2.25 in many cases.

By the end of the week \$11.00 was a common price for choice light lambs, the bulk selling between that figure and \$9.00. Even the invalid feeder market advanced a dollar or more, the daily crop being promptly absorbed, usually before noon. Ninety-pound Colorado lambs, almost unsalable two weeks before, made \$10.75 and 80-pound Idaho shorn lambs \$9.50. For 108-pound yearlings \$8.50 was paid, 104-pound shorn yearlings realized \$7.75. Choice 96-pound yearlings reached \$9.00 and prime 90-pound yearlings \$9.50. Top wethers went to \$7.75, good 124-pound stock selling at \$9.25, and fat handyweight ewes went on a \$7.00@7.25 basis, 125-pound ewes selling at \$6.65. Feeding lambs went to the country at \$8.00@8.50.

The situation and the prospect at the inception of March were decidedly more favorable to the producer than a month previously as the visible supply had been reduced to the contents of Colorado and Nebraska plus what stuff was lying around feed yards adjacent to the big markets. Selling pressure in Buffalo territory had relaxed as most of the natives available and a large proportion of the Western lambs on feed had been cashed, putting the matter of supply distribution up to Colorado feeders. Dressed trade picked up and while a reaction was not considered unprobable, practically everybody in the trade looked for better markets in March and April than since the holidays.

### OMAHA MARKET REVIEW FOR FEBRUARY

Receipts of sheep and lambs at Omaha last month amounted to 184,639 head, as compared with 188,115 head the previous month and 178,810 head during February of last year. Lambs and ewes of the corn-fed variety comprised most of the offerings and weights are still running heavier than a year ago.

Trade during the fore part of last month was of a rather unsettled character, with the tendency to values lower, but any declines that were registered during the first two weeks have

been more than regained and the market closed at fair prices.

Fat lambs that were not quotable above \$9.50 on the first of February are now selling freely up to \$10.50 and very few lambs, even in the heavier weights, are worth less than 9 cents a pound. A freer movement of wool, moderate receipts, a better Eastern demand for lamb meat and the re-shipment abroad of a big lot of New Zealand frozen mutton, are influences in the trade which have created improvement, both in the undertone to the market and the trend to prices.

Fat sheep have also been working higher and show even greater advances over a month ago, than lambs. Good ewes were selling at \$4.25@4.50 on the Omaha market four weeks ago; the same class of fat ewes brought \$6.25@6.35 this week, with aged wethers quoted at the usual premiums. Choice handy yearlings reached \$8.50, but the supply of wethers and yearlings continues very light and values show little actual change from day to day.

Current prices on the various classes of stock are about as follows:

Best fat lambs .....	\$10.00@10.50
Medium to good lambs .....	9.50@10.00
Plain and heavy lambs .....	9.00@ 9.75
Yearlings .....	7.50@ 8.50
Wethers .....	6.25@ 7.00
Good to choice ewes .....	6.00@ 6.50
Fair to good ewes .....	5.50@ 6.00
Feeding lambs .....	8.00@ 8.75

### KANSAS CITY'S FEBRUARY SHEEP MARKET

The February sheep market was the most heartrending affair that feeders have encountered in a good many years. The first sixteen days of the month brought a steady sag in prices that landed the market in the lowest position since February, 1914. At the full decline heavy lambs sold at \$5.75 to \$6.25, light weights up to \$8.00, ewes \$3.50 to \$3.75, wethers \$4.00 to \$4.50 and yearlings \$5.00 to \$5.50. At the decline trade was demoralized and feeders who had large supplies on hand were in a near panic. Offerings that sold at the low point lost \$7.00 to \$8.00 a head.

Decreased receipts brought a quick upturn, and in the past ten days prices advanced \$2.00 to \$3.00 a hundred pounds to the highest position since early January. The gain, though not sufficient to put the market on a money making basis, modified the losses materially and encouraged feeders to plan on distributing supplies over a greater period. At the full advance lambs sold up to \$10.75, yearlings \$8.50, wethers \$7.00 and ewes \$6.25. The upturn brought considerable demand for feeding lambs, and breeding ewes. The former class sold up to \$9.00 and the latter class up to \$6.00. There are still a good many fat lambs to come from the Arkansas valley and the bulk of the fed lambs are still in northern Colorado. The San Luis valley is cleaned up. Many of the lambs offered the past month weighed 95 to 105 pounds, and many ewes above 125 pounds. Never before have offerings carried greater average weight than this year. Feeders have sorted off heavy lambs for first marketing, and the second cuts will be lighter in weight and more in line with popular demand.

The slump and rebound in prices recorded the past month, though attributed to the early rush and subsequent slack movement, was due to a demoralized demand for mutton and dressed lamb, and the fact that the big packers saved the situation by reconsigning practically all the frozen carcasses on hand to foreign ports and freezing others to ship later. For the upswing in the market the big packers should be given credit, as they provided an outlet at a time when they had it in their power to ruin practically every sheep feeder in the West. This outlet will be maintained if foreign credits can be arranged.

February receipts in Kansas City were 142,000, about 16,000 larger than in the same month last year, and the largest in any February since 1917.

March receipts are expected to be fairly liberal, but the April run, owing to dry conditions in the Southwest, which will delay the movement of grass fat sheep, will be light. C. M. P.

**THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET**

(Continued from page 28.)

three-eighths-blood combing at 30 cents, and quarter-blood combing at 26 to 27 cents. The latter grade is now well sold up, the best lots remaining unsold being held at 28 cents. Fine unwashed clothing can not be quoted at over 33 to 34 cents.

The wool trade was encouraged late in the month by the operations of the American Woolen Company in fine noils. Its purchases in the Boston and Philadelphia markets were variously estimated at 13,000 to 15,000 bags. Prices paid were 35 to 45 cents for fine noils, 36 to 37 cents for three-eighths-blood noils and 30 cents for quarter-blood noils. Apparently if any holder of these grades failed to sell, it was because he held his stock at too high a figure.

It was supposed that the American was operating in anticipation of the opening of its new fall overcoating lines, February 21. Prices on these lines at the opening were about 50 per cent lower than a year ago, the fact that the goods did not show a corresponding shrinkage with wool being due to continued high labor costs. The clothing trades appear to have found the new lines attractive and cheap. The men's wear suitings will be opened March 15.

Summing up the situation as it exists today, it may be said in a general way that the market is slowly broadening, and while the Boston wool trade is not looking for a material advance in prices in the near future, a greatly increased demand is confidently expected. Manufacturers have their fixed limits beyond which they can not go in buying wool to cover current sales of goods. They are expected to be very "fussy" in this particular, and consequently values are expected to advance very slowly, even in the face of tariff agitation. The situation is distinctly more encouraging at the end of March than it was a month ago.

The President of the Shearers' Union advise the Wool Grower that under the circumstances of this year's shearing, and because of the absence of rate agreements, the union should not be held responsible for high rates demanded by shearers.

W. McLennan's letter, in part, is as follows:

After attending the convention of the National Wool Growers Association several sheepmen asked the writer to express his views of the legislation passed at the meeting regarding the shearing price, through the columns of the wool growers' magazine.

My presence at the session was not entirely at the instance of the Shearers' Union, but at the request of many sheepmen, who have repeatedly asked why representatives of the union would not meet with the officials of the employers' association and settle the price annually before shearing, claiming that the practice of changing prices was responsible for most of the trouble in past seasons. These growers say that a cent or two is of little importance, provided that they get some assurance that the price for shearing will not be changed during the actual shearing.

For the first time in recent years the Shearers' Union deferred action on the price fixing matter, in the hope of settling this question mutually with the employers in January.

On the second day of the convention it appeared that a settlement was likely, as there was only about two cents between us, the shearers offering a reduction of about 30 per cent from last year's rates. On the third day the whole complexion changed, and a very drastic resolution was adopted, an unreasonable reduction of 50 per cent from last season's price, ignoring the advanced railroad rates of 33 per cent and the reduction of numbers of sheep to be had at each plant.

According to the sponsor and other supporters of this motion it is not binding—it permits of higher or lower rates, and suggests different prices for which the growers have so frequently criticised the shearer. The proposition also tends to create friction and misunderstanding.

It would appear from the action of the convention that "collective bargaining" and the policies advocated by the

National Industrial Commission are not favorably entertained by the wool growers of the Western States.

The shearing prices for the coming season will be arranged locally and the censuring of members of this organization for demanding so-called high rates must be deferred, as there are no established rules and regulations to govern the shearing.

It appears that this year's shearing rates must be a question of barter at each shearing plant. The results, considered along with those of 1920, will be useful in showing what can or should be done in the future.

Utah sheepmen generally and some in other states are standing strongly for a 9-cent rate. The Big Horn Association (Wyoming) approved 11½ cents and a charge of \$1 per day for board. The Arizona meeting on February 5 recommended 10 cents without board.

Reports from California and Arizona points, where shearing has started state that from 12 to 15 cents is being paid. Mexican shearers in Texas are said to be receiving 7 to 10 cents with board. On March 9, the Utah Shearers Union voted in favor of a rate of 12½ cents with board.

**CONFIDENCE FROM LONG EXPERIENCE**

While things look very dark for the sheep business just now, I can see a speck of daylight shining through the clouds. I have been through just such times as we are having now, as I was born in the sheep business. I believe that we will see prosperity again soon. We have reduced the number of our sheep to what we ought to have and as the population is continually increasing, the demand for our products will increase also. I believe in protecting America first and all the time. This concern has sold wool all the way from 6 cents to \$1 per pound. We are sure it will come back now.

Valera, Texas.      Firmin Beck.



## GOOD LAMBINGS IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

Winter lambing in southern and western Idaho is progressing satisfactorily. The lambs are exceptionally strong and vigorous and the general average thus far is about 10 per cent above normal. Several outfits report from 120 per cent to 135 per cent of lambs saved.

Weather conditions during February have been almost ideal for shed lambing operations, although the frequent rains and light snow storms have caused muddy feed lots and pens where soil and drainage conditions are not favorable. Absence of extremely low temperatures, however, coupled with almost unprecedented precipitation, promises early and abundant spring feed and it looks at this time as though ewes and lambs can be turned on good grass about as soon as they are ready to leave the lambing sheds.

The western Idaho sheepmen who are lambing early should ship an unusually high per cent of good lambs to market this year. However, probably not to exceed 60 per cent of the usual number of ewes are being winter lamb-ed this season.

Up to date we have had an ideal winter for sheep in this section of the state. We have had no cold weather to speak of and just a few light falls of snow, which have all been followed by Chinook winds. We are wintering 3,800 breeding ewes and so far have not had to feed at all and the sheep are in good condition.

We will start lambing May first. Hay is plentiful here at \$8 and \$10 per ton. Herders' wages have been cut from \$75 to \$60; ranch help to \$50. We are moving our hay from the meadow and stacking it up in large stacks for future use. We still have our 1920 wool clip in storage in Boston.—Armstrong & Stephens, Saco, Montana.

The subscription price of the National Wool Grower, \$1.50 a year.

## LAWS FOR IDAHO SHEEPMEN

Idaho sheepmen, led by Hugh Sproat, president of the Association, have obtained a lot of fine legislation at this session of the legislature, including a new scab law and board of sheep commissioners, a law classifying sheep labor as agricultural labor, the postponement of rentals from January until September on leased lands, an amendment to the mortgage law abolishing secret and unrecorded liens on live stock, besides the election of a sheepman to the United States Senate. This Idaho Wool Growers Association has done a lot of work for Idaho sheepmen, who, I am sure, will appreciate it.

The board of sheep commissioners appointed by the Governor consists of Fred Gooding, Hugh Sproat, Andrew Little, C. W. Clay and B. Thomas Morris. A fund of \$35,000 was made available for the board's work. Two meetings have been held and with the cooperation of the Bureau of Animal Industry, scab and other diseases will soon be under complete control and, as rapidly as is possible, eradicated.

S. W. McClure.

## NO EARLY GRASSERS FROM TEXAS

Killers cannot count on any early grass fat sheep from southwest Texas this year. Last spring these grassers were fat on early weeds and grass by the latter part of March, but in the past two months the San Angelo country has been so dry that new vegetation has not started, and it may be May or later before Texas grassers are moving. However, the winter has been mild, rough dry feed plentiful, and flocks are in excellent condition. Shearing is well under way and the per cent lamb crop will be large. Flockmasters are not going to sell freely unless the market improves. The prospects for the late movement from Texas will be favorable for Western feeders extending their marketing period well into late spring, especially if they have lightweight lambs.

C. M. P.

## RANGE CONDITIONS IN OREGON

A recent trip over the range country of central Oregon shows those ewes are doing well that are being wintered on the desert. Conditions were favorable and feed quite abundant until the past two weeks (of February) when several inches of snow have fallen, which has covered up and frozen the short feed on the range. Several of the outfits are finding it profitable to feed baled hay at the rate of half a pound of hay a day while the sheep are kept on the range where they find considerable browse. The hay is purchased on the irrigated ranches around Bend at prices around \$16 per ton baled, and is hauled to the sheep bands on light trucks. The trucks carry about one ton to the load and the sheep men figure that this hay delivered to the bands costs a little less than \$25 per ton. This beats putting the sheep on full hay feed on alfalfa ranches, where they lick up three to five pounds of hay per day, and do not do as well as when they can spend some time on browse.

There is plenty of alfalfa hay in the Deschutes Valley for those who have to feed, and prices for hay have been ranging from \$10 to \$15 per ton in the stack, with very little moving.

R. A. Ward.

## LAMBS MAKE GOOD GAINS

The second year of the experimental lamb feeding carried on in central Oregon by alfalfa growers in co-operation with the First National Bank of Bend is demonstrating that Deschutes Valley alfalfa, coupled with sunflower silage, will make satisfactory gains in the average feeder lamb. Rasmus Peterson, who is feeding 500 head at Deschutes reports a gain of half a pound per head per day when the lambs were first put on alfalfa pasture. This gain has declined to one-third of a pound per day since the lambs have gone on to a straight alfalfa hay and sunflower silage ration. The lambs are being fed all the alfalfa they will eat, with about two pounds of silage.

R. A. W.

**STOCKYARD AND PACKER PRACTICES IN HANDLING LAMBS**

(Continued from page 20.)

bought by Swift & Company at \$12.50 and on the next day after that Swift & Company bought some of them at \$11.00 per hundredweight.

Inasmuch as the purchase on the first day at \$13.00 per hundredweight was not made by Swift & Company and the balance of the other purchases were made by Swift & Company it is reasonable to assume that the buyer who bought at \$13.00 per hundredweight found after the lambs were dressed that he made a poor purchase, otherwise he would have been keen for more of the lambs, especially at lower prices. On the third and last day of the sale out of the shipments referred to, the demand for feeders had slumped to such an extent that a re-assortment had to be made in order to sell the last bunch of feeders. It was the throw-outs out of this re-assortment that we purchased at \$11.00 per hundredweight. These were coarse, and undesirable for any purpose.

As was pointed out in our previous letter, these lambs were much overrated. The fact that half of them were sold as feeders indicates that they were poor in flesh. This is also borne out by the dressing yields on the lambs we purchased. Good lambs ought to dress out 50 per cent, whereas these only yielded 46 per cent.

Lambs purchased at 12 cents and dressing out only 46 per cent are just as expensive to the packer as lambs costing 13 cents and dressing out 50 per cent.

Mr. Ballard raises the question whether the lower priced lambs were tagged in the coolers to sell at prices correspondingly lower than lambs for which a higher live price was paid. We do not put price tags on fresh meat. We think that Mr. Ballard overlooks the fact that dealers buying dressed lamb are just as keen in their judgment as to quality and worth as are the producers or the commission men who represent them. Meat cannot be marketed on the basis of cost. If that were possible we would be able to make a profit

on each individual sale. We consider ourselves fortunate when we can complete a year's sheep and lamb business with a small average profit. This we were not able to do last year. Our 1921 Year Book, which will soon be off the press, and which reports our 1920 fiscal year business, will show that we paid for live sheep and lambs averaging 80 pounds in weight, \$10.90 per head, and that we received for the meat averaging 37 pounds per head, \$9.41, and the net returns from by-products were \$2.89, making a total income of \$12.30 and leaving a margin for expenses and profit of \$1.40. The actual expenses were \$1.43, leaving a loss of three cents per head.

Mr. Ballard also refers to shipments of yearling wethers made on June 23rd and 24th, 1919. He claims the wethers were as alike as peas in a pod, and he claims he cannot understand why some of the wethers sold on the first day at \$10.75 and at \$10.50 the day following; why there should have been 42 throw-outs out of three cars which brought only \$8.50 the first day and 89 throw-outs from six cars sold the next day at \$8.25, and furthermore, he seems astonished that the tops on both days were bought by one packer and that the culls on both days were purchased by another packer.

The spread in prices from one day to the other on both the tops and the culls amounted only to 25c per hundredweight and cannot be considered as abnormal. And on the other hand, no commission man would have agreed to sell the wethers on those days at \$8.25, and furthermore, he seems as their quality warranted a higher price.

We trust this further explanation convinces Mr. Ballard that his lambs were sold under competitive conditions and brought what they were worth.

**NEW YORK CONDITIONS.**

The weather has been very mild for the season—very little snow and sheep out all the time. Good ewes have been going for \$5.00 that were bringing \$20 during the boom. There is no market for wool. Some sheepmen are quitting in disgust while others are buying

while sheep are cheap. Most of the lambs brought from ten to eleven cents the past season. Wool started at about 72 cents and dropped to the present state of nothingness.

White Bros.

Stuben County, New York.

**WESTERN WYOMING**

The winter in this part of the country has been ideal and sheep so far have come through in splendid condition. At the present time the snow has nearly all gone and it will mean going to water holes with the sheep, which also means very little feed. The breeding season was never better and the prospects for a good lambing are good, if we only get the weather and the feed. There has been very little feeding done this winter, only in cases where some old ewes had been kept over on account of no market last fall.

The wages have been cut from \$100 to \$75 per month and there is talk of a further cut.

The farmers who bought lambs last fall at 12 cents are going to lose pretty heavily. I understand that some of them shipped to Denver from Worland the early part of this month and got 6¼ to 7¼ cents per pound. What made it worse was the fact that the lambs were very heavy last fall and if the farmers put too much gain on they had too heavy a lamb to bring the top price.

The wool market has been a blank and most of the wool is still unsold, most of the commission houses asking for a rebate on the advance. Very few ewes have changed hands the last few months. A few bands were sold last fall at \$8 to \$9 per head. Shearing prices are still far from being settled and I do not think any one has contracted for shearing in this part of the country.

The outlook for an early spring is good as the frost is nearly all out of the ground and green feed has started in some places, but it is a little too early for green feed yet as we are bound to get some cold weather before spring.

Baird Taylor.

Ten Sleep, Wyoming.

## THE SHEEPMAN'S PROSPECTS AND THE PRICE OF EWES

A reader of the Wool Grower who doubtless expresses the thought of many others, writes us in this vein:

"Things don't look good to me. Am up against the real thing. Would like some one to forecast the future."

From another perplexed one we have this:

"I want to try to solve the problem of where I am going to come out on my \$20 ewes which I bought just before the hard winter and then paid \$6 a head for wintering, 35 cents for shearing, and got 20 cents for the wool."

One thing that has not been fully figured on by some embarrassed sheepmen is the fact that ewe values are not so low as frequently reported. Our inquirers will get help from another letter received from a man who travels widely in the Intermountain territory and devotes himself exclusively to the buying and selling of sheep and lambs. Here is his letter in part:

"Just returned yesterday morning and among other things found a letter from a sheepman over in western Wyoming whom I have known several years. Said he had heard that good, young ewes could be bought at around \$3 and wanted to know if I could get 4,000 head of two and three-year-olds for him at that figure. Thought I would answer him as well as a lot of others like him, through the Wool Grower provided you have the space to spare this issue.

"It seems to me it is about time a lot of people get the idea of cheap sheep out of their heads. I have had a dozen inquiries lately for \$5 and \$6 ewes and, of course, they want choice young ewes at that price. They might as well forget it. The general range of values for the spring movement will be from \$9 and up. There isn't much question about that, to my mind, at least.

"We thought for a while that we were going to be able to buy two to four-year-old ewes for \$7 to \$8 for delivery around April 1. But we have given this idea up entirely. Fine to medium woolled ewes under four years old are not going to be sold for less than \$9.50 to \$10 for April delivery. And only very few will be available at those figures, as young ewes are decidedly scarce in the Intermountain country. There has been practically

no replacement of aged ewes in this territory during the past two years, and almost every outfit is either short in number or carrying a heavy end of aged stuff that must go this fall. To offset this very pronounced and well recognized shortage of young breeding ewes, we believe we are safe in the assertion that there are not to exceed 50,000 two-year-old ewes for sale in the whole Intermountain country, and probably not more than 20,000 ewe lambs suitable for breeding purposes. This is an extremely limited supply compared with the needs of the owners of six million ewes in Idaho, western Montana, western Wyoming, Utah and Nevada."

We also have this from the young veteran sheepman, Colonel Dwight Lincoln of Ohio:

"The sheepmen of Ohio have full faith in the future of the industry and refuse to be stampeded as in former years. That this faith will be fully rewarded I have no doubt. Inquiries for breeding stock for the coming season are already beginning to come in and things are commencing to take on a business aspect. Cheaper feed will make a number of good rams in this section this year."

The Wool Grower never offers to dictate or suggest what readers should do in their individual transactions. It is our duty to influence thought and action along lines upon which the association's officers are working for the protection and advancement of the sheep business generally. However, those who ask specific questions are entitled to specific answers when we can make them.

To our first inquirer, quoted above, we say emphatically that the future will bring improvement. Why? Because wool and mutton are constant necessities. Because there has been an under-consumption and not an over-production of these articles. Because the market conditions are a result of inability to purchase by the countries which normally consume the wool that has come to overstock American markets.

It is worth while to recall the early part of 1914. Wool was strong and going higher because consumption was growing and production was not. Curtailment of American consumption was

a result of unjustifiable high prices. The remedy has been applied and recovery started. The recent actions in Europe are working to define Germany's status and will re-establish the commerce of Central Europe. The action to be taken next month by Congress will remove the advantage which foreign wool growers have recently had in American markets.

When will this recovery take place? We believe it has already begun and that it will be more marked in May and June. We think it would be a mistake for those who have weathered the climax of the storm to quit the business now. We will not have and do not want a boom. The morning after is too distasteful. We must breed our sheep still better and manage more closely. But it will not pay to use poor rams, to underfeed or overstock. We must improve our product and support and work with the successful, progressive men in our organizations who are seeking to introduce better methods of producing and safer and more satisfactory methods of selling.

If we do these things diligently, we will have greater faith in ourselves and increase the faith our bankers must have in us. This is the way the \$20 ewe will pay herself out, but it will be well as a general proposition to buy a few good rams and grow our own stock ewes.

## NEWS ITEM FROM COLORADO

We have had a fine mild winter here and all live stock has done well. Alfalfa hay has sold from \$6 up, in the stack, but there has been but very little feeding done as we have had no snow to speak of in the San Luis Valley. Most of the wool in the valley has been consigned, although there is still some being held in storage. From the looks of things we will have two crops of wool to sell at once and possibly more.

Flockmasters have been cutting down wages all winter, some of them paying herders only \$40 per month at present. Money is tight, but the banks are still helping the stockmen along.

George Bingel.

Del Norte, Colorado.



## GOOD SHEEP AND ADVERSITY

W. P. Sackett of western New York is typical of thousands of farmers who do not wish to leave their pleasant farm homes and who, on the other hand, have reached the age at which they can not do a large amount of heavy farm work. Mr. Sackett, a sheep owner always, has, in order to reduce the labor to a minimum, organized his farm business in such a way that the bulk of his income will be derived from the sale of wool and lambs. Only eight acres of the farm were plowed last year.

A life-time experience has taught this sheepman the relative importance of certain profit-making factors in sheep husbandry. It is this crystalized knowledge that will be put into practice in the management of the flock during this period of lower prices. In the effort to concentrate on sheep husbandry and to make each sheep count in an efficient and profitable way, Mr. Sackett has come to believe in nothing but the best individuals. Thus fortified he does not fear a period of depression. When approached on this subject he cited several experiences to show that he had never lost when he had good sheep, but on the contrary first class ewes, bought back in the nineties when sheep and sheep products were low, had paid out exceptionally. But they were good individuals with possibilities, raising over one hundred and fifty per cent lambs.

The present flock belonging to Mr. Sackett has been largely developed at home. Foundation grade ewes were purchased and for two years Delaine rams were used. The best ewe lambs were saved. After this period the number desired had been attained and the mutton lambs are now sired by rams of mutton breeding. Briefly this is the make-up of the flock that is to get results during the next few years. It is a superior flock, all select ewes, one hundred head without a cull. They will average ten pounds of wool per head and at the same time will raise a market-topping lamb and many of them will raise two.

First of all, Mr. Sackett is a feeder and all-around good care-taker. Experience has shown him that it pays to grow out well the young animals in order that they may attain their highest possibilities and grow into large, roomy, strongly constituted ewes, possessing good shearing and mothering qualities. Alfalfa is well thought of on this farm as a valuable roughage. Corn stover, with which has been grown soybeans, furnishes a lot of feed. Sweet corn fodder, fed ears and all, has given results that are very gratifying. This past year two acres of the site plowed were planted to a mixture of barley, oats and peas. This was cut rather green and placed in the mow loose. Mr. Sackett says that this last mixture makes nearly a balanced ration. The coarser roughages are fed during the first part of the winter and the alfalfa saved until near spring. In this way excellent results can be secured without the use of much grain. "For many years," he said, "I thought I could not keep sheep unless I had a lot of hay, but I have learned that there are other roughages that can be utilized to good advantage and produced cheaply."

Although the members of this flock are grades, each ewe has a number and her performance is recorded—every ewe must be a producer. During times of low prices for any commodity poor quality in that commodity or product is strikingly discriminated against and close grading is resorted to. The point is that Mr. Sackett today scarcely feels the slump in the prices of sheep products. To illustrate what I mean—last spring when this clip of wool was ready to market it was placed in a truck and taken to a woolen mill some twenty miles away. Mr. Sackett had been informed that they did not buy individual clips or from small samples, but when the mill representatives saw the clean condition of the wool, the uniformity of the grade and the length of staple they disregarded their general practice and bought the load at 63 cents a pound.

The first lot of lambs sold from this flock averaged thirty-three pounds. The

buyer was given a chance to take the lambs at eighty pounds without the bother of weighing, but the offer was refused. The lambs had never stopped growing and were better than they looked. The second lot of lambs weighed seventy-four pounds. The lambs sold for 10 cents a pound. The high percentage of lambs raised helped to make up for the slump in price. Of course from now on Mr. Sackett will feel the slump in prices, but he will relatively always be the man "higher up," compared with the man who owns sheep of the ordinary class.

MARK J. SMITH.

## STANLEY COFFIN'S ANNUAL MUTTON SALE

I thought it might be of interest to the wool growers to know something about our mutton market which we operate each fall for several weeks, generally in the month of December.

We usually have on alfalfa pasture during the early winter, some good fat ewes, not real old but good five-years-old past that we do not wish to breed for range lambing, and we also have a lot of good fat lambs. This year we offered these to local packers but they would not buy them, so we put on the sale. They also put on a mutton sale, and we together in this small community sold in three weeks' time about 1,200 ewes and lambs, probably as many as had been sold during the previous six months.

The "direct from producer to consumer" idea appeals to people and they supported our sale in great shape. I really believe these sales increase the demand for mutton and lamb three times over. During this last sale there were a number of men out of work, consequently quite a few destitute families, so we gave a number of the thinner ewes to the Salvation Army and Associated Charities, and in this way helped the poorer people.

We paid a local butcher 35 cents per head for killing, sold the pelts for 50 and 60 cents, and at the dressed prices, by selling only whole, halves or quarters, doing a cash and carry business,

and using a corner of our own building practically eliminated three-quarters of the usual market overhead expense, and gave the public mutton and lamb at one-half what they had been paying. Also it paid us net a little more than the local packers were paying, if they would buy at all.

At our Washington woolgrowers' meeting at Spokane, a resolution was passed asking the different associations in the West to take up with their members these mutton and lamb sales, and try and get a number in each community to put on such a sale.

This, I consider in line with sheepmen selling their own blankets and virgin wool suitings; these mutton sales to increase the consumption of lamb and mutton, the suiting and blanket sales to increase the use of virgin wool.

We also passed a motion, offering a prize of \$50 for the best slogan, having for its purpose the increased use of lamb and mutton from a health standpoint. Asking for this slogan has created a lot of interest on the subject and is in itself a good advertisement.

We figure we must, and will get the cost of running sheep this year down to one-half what it was the past year. We have got to do it and then some, if we want to continue to exist in the sheep business. I might mention that in the reduction of wages, camp supplies have naturally been cut down at least one-third, the fancy groceries practically eliminated.

I believe the sheepman that sits tight and establishes a business administration in running, lambing, and shearing his sheep, and marketing his wool and lambs will win out.

H. STANLEY COFFIN.

Yakima, Wash.

### CANADA'S SHEEP COUNT

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that on June 15, the total sheep population of Canada was 3,721,000, as compared with 3,422,000 at the same time in 1919.

### TOM DRUMMOND WRITES FROM HIS NEW HOME

Sheep have done well this winter in the Deer Lodge Valley. In the fall the feed was plentiful and well cured and the sheep all in good condition; the breeding season was also all that could be desired. During the winter there has been only three light snows, which melted away within a few days. The valley is well laid out with hay stacks, as there has been very little fed or shipped out, but the prospects at present are that there will be a short hay crop next season owing to the dry winter.

Sixty dollars per month is the general wage for herders, cut to that figure the tenth of January. Everyone has been cutting expenses as far as possible, but not to the detriment of the stock. The sheepmen I have talked with have faith in the business and are concerned mostly in keeping their sheep in good shape.

The Selway and Gardiner Sheep Company start lambing the 18th of March and by all appearances there will be very few dry ewes, and I believe that will be general in all flocks where there were enough rams used.

The wool is in a good healthy condition and fairly clean. Snow is plentiful enough in the mountains to make summer feed good. With a good market for wool and lambs, sheep in these parts should give a fair return.

Tom Drummond.

Warm Springs, Montana.

A 12,000-acre sheep and grain ranch near Connell, Wash., with 4,600 breeding ewes and other stock and machinery to run the ranch, has been purchased by Remie and Felix Deruwe, sheepmen of Columbia County, from Edward Knott. The purchase price was not made public, but the buildings are said to be worth \$30,000 and the total value of the ranch and stock is estimated at not less than \$100,000.

Salt Lake Ram Sale, August 29th to September 1.

### PROBLEMS AND REMINISCENCES

I have spent three months in my little "home town" and have learned every sign by heart. I have studied the latest fashions demonstrated with war-paint and all.

Tonight as I write, my Sunday-go-to-meetings are chucked in my suitcase; my passport in hand; I'm going on a long looked for visit back among my friends. Yes, fifteen hundred friends, and mighty good ones at that; friends, who for years have kept me in money for all the necessities of life with some few luxuries, and who ask for so little in return. These little friends wear the finest all-wool coats, with lovely frills around the neck. When I feel the texture of their coats and then my own, I shiver, for alas! my coat is made of gunny-sacking and cockle-burrs, with a little wool on the burrs, but I was obliged to buy it for all-wool just the same.

Never, to my memory, have the conditions of the wool growing industry been as they are today. Most of the laws passed in the last few years have helped to lead to the crash that is now upon us. While these laws seem very practical to men (the majority of whom spend their lives in offices and know the picture of a sheep when they see one), to apply these laws to the industry spells inevitable ruin. Are we, as wool growers, going to stand back and let one of the greatest industries in the United States be crushed out of existence, when our Congressmen are only too glad to help, if we, who have actual experience, bring out what our industry needs most?

Every wool grower in the United States, and we are 100,000 strong, should put on his fighting clothes and fight the good fight to a finish, so that the business shall receive the same protection as the large manufacturing concerns of the country.

By throwing our market open to the world with no protection on raw material, the wool business today is in a most rotten mess: with increased freight rates, forest fees, and war taxes, and being forced to ship on a market glutted with frozen lambs from

a country that leases its public domain to wool growers for a term of years at the rate of 8 cents per head a year. Can we compete with those fellows? Here at home we are made to feel it a great privilege that Uncle Sam allows us to graze our bands on the National Forest from three to four months at 10 cents per head, and costing the stockmen in this vicinity, thousands of dollars, moving a distance of forty or fifty miles to and from our summer range. This range is so perfectly adapted to sheep raising that Kansas City commission men claim we not only produce the finest lambs of the United States, but of the entire world.

More sheep and lambs have been lost, pack stock rolled, crippled and killed in the last few years on what is known as the Hermosa Drive than would build a graded railway for twenty miles.

An expenditure of a few thousand dollars would build us a cleared drive-way, the width of a road fenced on either side, with places set aside to camp upon, not in the roughest part of the country, as we now have it, but under the same condition as we select sites for our roads. We could then reach any of the ranges in three days with no loss or extra expense, and would accommodate 60,000 to 100,000 head of sheep.

For another drive-way we have used a public road for years, but this road has been made into a \$550,000 highway, and because of this last spring the sheepmen were obliged to ship their sheep part way to the range at an awful expense, and from there we forced our trusting bands into Purgatory and the next place below, where we stood by and saw big fine ewes crowded off the trail to instant death. Because of the railroad's inability to furnish cars last fall we paid 3 cents per head and drove our bands over the highway, but I feel this is not doing justice to so grand a road.

I have taken a careful invoice of the bands in this part of the country and must say it is sickening when I think of the condition in which I find them, by this I do not mean in flesh but in ages. There is practically no young

stuff in the country, and the ewes were old three years ago. I have made an investigation to determine the cause of these astonishing conditions and find a stockman feels it too risky to keep 300 or 400 ewe lambs which, up to this fall, brought good prices. He has to feed and winter them with absolutely no assurance that he can get range for them in the summer. Some of the ranges have been utilized by men who carry on a business in town and run a band as a mere speculation, while the professional sheepmen are limited to 1,500 head when they should be entitled to 2,500 head. With that number he could carry 500 yearlings and still have plenty of lambs to sell in order to meet the expenses heaped upon him. The day of the small sheepman is over. He can hardly afford to put in his time with 500 or 600 head and store wool in a warehouse for two years as the prospects now are, and sell lambs at 5 to 7 cents per pound.

The ranges will soon be waving blue with larkspur and the golden hoof no more. Can the country thrive without an industry which brings hundreds of thousands of dollars of new money off the Eastern markets and circulates it in our small Western towns?

Mr. Knollin, I enjoyed very much your reminiscence of days gone by. It took me back several years ago when I pictured myself a great lamb feeder. I was then just a slip of a motherless girl, academy raised, educated for a concert violinist, my fathers' only child, and consequently his "boy" when down on the farm. Armed with my bank roll, about the amount most people take when starting to the county fair, I sallied forth to purchase my feeding lambs.

I bought cut-backs for 6 cents per pound and they averaged 47 pounds. I started home with these little rats which were so covered with body wrinkles it was difficult to tell if they were going or coming. Every person along the road was pressed into action to keep the little woolies together. I was obliged to abandon my buggy, in which I was riding, turn my team towards home and join in the chase. I stopped at one of the farms to pur-

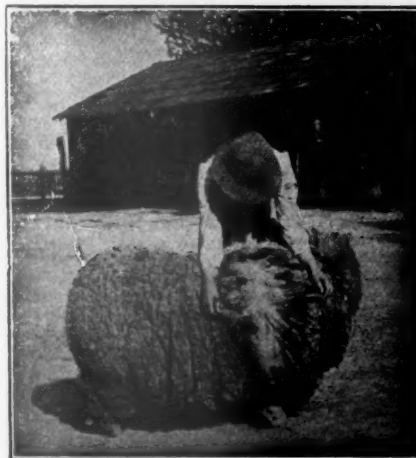


One of My Stud Rams

## CALIFORNIA RAMBOUILLETS

My Rambouillets are large, smooth and well covered with heavy fleeces of long white wool. They are bred in a high, dry country and are very hardy. I have 2000 one and two-year-old rams for this season. If you visit California, call and see my flocks. My prices are reasonable and my rams will suit the range country.

**CHAS. A. KIMBLE,**  
**Hanford, Cal.**



One of My Stud Ewes





### Rambouillets

Sold out for 1920. Fine crop of ewe and ram lambs coming on for the 1921 trade, to be sold in lots to suit.

W. S. HANSEN, Collinston, Utah.

### Knollin-Hansen Company

Pocatello, Idaho.  
P. O. Box 478.

Ranch Headquarters, Soda Springs, Idaho.

Breeders of  
Registered Hampshire, Oxford and  
Romney Sheep.

Shorthorn Cattle.  
Berkshire Hogs, and  
Bronze Turkeys.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.



San Peter Sheared 51 Lbs. in 1919.

Ewes and Rams. One or a carload.  
On account of lack of range will sell  
500 smooth body ewes at a bargain.  
Also 300 yearling rams.

W. D. Candland & Sons  
Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

**Ear Tags**  
FOR STOCK

Tag your stock—best and cheapest means of identification for Hogs, Sheep and Cattle. Name, address and number stamped on tags. Catalog mailed free on request.

F. S. Burch & Co., 134 W. Huron St. Chicago

chase an old goat for which I paid \$2. With this noble Joan in the lead, I arrived home with as many blisters on my toes as I had lambs in my bunch. But as I marched into the feed lot with my purchase I felt like a "a million dollar kid." These lambs dined all winter on \$5 hay, weeds about the farm, as well as a few apple trees, much to the annoyance of all concerned.

In the spring my flock sheared a generous clip of wool, amounting to \$1 per head. They spent the summer on the National Forest and in the fall I sold them for \$7.50 per head. My little rats had now grown to good Rambouillet ewes.

After I had watched my little pets out of sight, closed the gate and standing with check in hand, it was hard to realize I had pulled off a successful feeding stunt.

Laura Helton Thompson.

Durango, Colorado.

### A WASHINGTON BILL ON PAYMENT OF SHEEP TAXES

A bill drawn at the suggestion of Chelan County commissioners, sponsored by Representative E. M. Gillette of Chelan and now before the state legislature, would transfer a portion of the taxes paid on sheep to the coffers of counties wherein the sheep graze during the summer. North central Washington counties have suffered much, their representatives say, from the "depredations" of itinerant sheep, and this bill is intended to afford compensation. It promises to travel a rocky road to passage, however, for representatives of southeastern Washington counties have pointed out that eleven counties in that corner of the state, including Yakima, Benton, Kittitas, Klickitat, Grant, Franklin, Walla Walla, Whitman, Adams, Columbia and Asotin, collect taxes on 502,500 head of sheep, or about five-sixths of the total number in the state, and that they could ill afford to lose any portion of the tax money. G. W. Angell.

### PETER ROUSSE & SONS, SHEEP FEEDERS

Western flockmasters who have never met Peter Rousse of St. Mary's, Kansas, or one of his three sons, should at least know of these men, who are the biggest all the time sheep feeders in Kansas. Peter Rousse is the senior member of the firm of Peter Rousse & Sons of St. Mary's, Kansas—a Belgian by birth and a Kansan by choice. He has been feeding sheep and lambs twenty-four years. Birth ushered each of the three sons, all now grown, into the sheep feeding business as a partner. On the Rousse 1,000-acre ranch, 5,000 to 15,000 are fed annually, the average for the twenty-four years being about 8,000. Alfalfa and corn are the feeding rations. The lambs, Western bred, are bought on the Kansas City market late in October or early November at around fifty-five-pound average, and marketed the latter part of January and through February, according to the condition of the market. In the twenty-four years, Mr. Rousse has sold choice fed lambs as low as \$5.00 a hundred pounds, and as high as \$21.00. On February 16th of this year, Rousse & Sons sold lambs as low as \$7.85, and just eight days later some of their lambs brought \$10.25. They usually market lambs at 80 to 85 pound weights. Notwithstanding the loss incurred in feeding this winter, Rousse & Sons will feed as usual next winter. C. M. P.

### ROBERTSON LAMBS AT \$9

J. H. Robertson of Fountain Green, Utah, had two double decks of lambs on the Kansas City market February 24th, that averaged eighty-nine pounds and sold at \$9.00 a hundred pounds, or more than \$2.00 above the price they would have brought had they been sold at the low point of the month, recorded February 14th and 15th. They were good lambs, and well fattened. C. M. P.

### WOOL CONDITIONS FROM WYOMING VIEWPOINT—MONTANA WOOL PLAN APPROVED

The weather manufacturer is certainly trying his best to make up this year to the Wyoming stockmen for his abominable treatment of a year ago. February has exhibited weather as ideal as the most critical could desire. About one cold day, one snow storm, a few squalls, lots of sunshine, not much wind, practically no frost in the ground, the iceman out of luck in gathering his harvest, lots of grass and sheep doing fine: that is the bright side.

Of the other side most of us are too painfully aware, and have been for some time. Just now the lamb feeder is getting an awful bumping. Good lambs, but a little heavy, have been selling on the market for less than 6 cents. That means the gross receipts at the market did not return what the feeder paid the grower for the lamb. Labor, feed, buying and selling charges, and last and greatest, transportation costs, are all added to that first cost of the lamb, and in this equation represent loss to the man who manufactures one of our choicest food products. Not since the disastrous winter of 1912 have lambs sold so low in the markets; nor are cattle feeders in much better shape. All meats are low on foot, but go to the butcher shop and you will think it is still war-time. This deflation of which the producer has been the goat does not seem to reach the retailer, nor in many cases the manufacturer, while transportation costs are worse than ever. In fact, the latter are so out of proportion to other commodities that right now they are doing more to stop business than any other one thing. Railroads can raise rates, but they cannot compel people to ship over them.

Eastern reports are that wool is moving some, but the prices named are close to and in many cases below the level of prices in that period of ancient history known as before the Great War. Local wools still stay in the warehouse. Growers feel that they can go no lower and that the drop

was so swift and so far that there must be a rebound. At prices quoted today wool is lower in proportion than any other commodity, with the exception of hides. They tell us about the enormous stocks of wool in this country and that there is no demand for clothes, but the fact of the matter is there is not an extraordinary amount of wool that will make good clothes, and the general public has become so disgusted with the outrageous prices asked for clothes made of shoddy that they have simply refused to buy and are wearing their old clothes. Many people are ready and willing to buy clothes at a fair price, but they simply balk at paying two or three prices for junk. Listen to what a friend writes, "Chicago is loaded with the rottenest lot of worked-over stuff in the way of men's clothing that I ever saw." Is it any wonder that people do not buy clothes, and that mills claim there is no demand for clothes?

Is it not ridiculous that a country which does not normally produce over half the wool it consumes can not furnish a market for that half which it does raise? It looks as if the manufacturers and the clothiers were taking all the profits and then trying to "pass the buck" to the growers for the high prices and then turning around and taking it out of them by refusing to use their wool. Last summer a prominent clothing manufacturer declared that the cost of wool was a negligible factor in the cost of a suit of clothes, and of course a sheepman knows that it surely is. The largest woolen manufacturer in this country made a net profit of over 18 per cent on a capital composed of a good percentage of water, while a certain clothing manufacturer made practically two hundred and fifty per cent profit, in 1920, (we write the numbers for fear somebody will think the printer made a mistake). And this in a year when producers took greater losses than ever in the history of this country, and when for eight months there was practically no market for wool, the very material which is supposed to be the basis of these manufactured products.

Is it any wonder that producers and



**FOR SALE**  
Old English Sheep Dog Puppies  
3 Months Old Prices from \$10 to \$25  
**TED BALLARD**  
P. O. Box 265 Weiser, Idaho

## WANTED!

A sheep herder for small band, or if so desired, party could put in sheep with owner's flock.

**GEO. WATSON,**  
Whitemud P. O., Sask, Canada.



## HAMPSHIRE

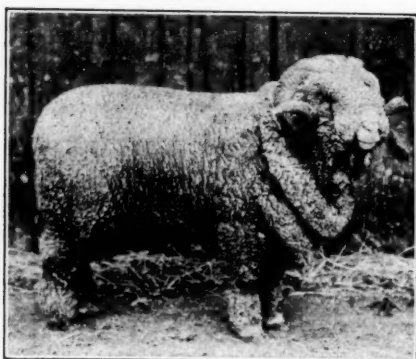
The best mutton sheep. Evidence: the highest-priced car mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires. The price was 42 cents a pound live weight, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred. When you want sheep you want Hampshires. When you want Hampshires let the American Hampshire Sheep Association send you a dandy little booklet and list of live breeders.

Write Comfort A. Tyler, Secretary,  
14 Woodland Ave., Detroit, Mich.

**FOR SALE OR TRADE**

2,200 choice fine-wooled two-year-old ewes to lamb May 1st. Will sell or trade for aged ewes, suitable for market this year, with lambs at their sides. Wire or write

**Florence Livestock Co.,**  
Hagerman, Idaho



We are offering for the year 1921

**400 head of 2-year-old  
Rambouillet  
Rams**

**800 head of 1-year-old  
Rambouillet  
Rams**

On account of being overstocked we are offering 300 head of ewes from 1 to 5 years old, in lots to suit purchaser.

For further particulars, apply to

**Bullard Bros.**  
Woodland, California

the general public resent such conditions? If mills, manufacturing clothiers and retailers had been willing to be satisfied with fair profits instead of demanding the excessive profits of war time during the last year and to supply cloth and clothes instead of shoddy and junk, mills could have kept running, people would have bought clothes, and wool growers would have had a market for their wool at a fair price, at least enough to have kept them out of the dire financial straits in which they have found themselves.

One result of this is the action of the Montana wool growers, backed by the National Association, in forming the Western Wool Growers Association to turn the wool into 100 per cent wool cloth and send it back to the wool growing states. Every wool grower should use a little extra effort in seeing that these goods are made available in his community, and in this way do two good turns at once, help to make a market for his wool, and help his neighbor to get some all wool clothes at a reasonable price. The advertising columns of this paper will tell you where to find out all about this.

ROSCOE WOOD.

**JUST HUMAN NATURE**

When live stock prices are declining it is almost impossible to get buyers to take offerings. "Can make some money on them at the price, but it might go lower" is a common remark. But when the market starts up, there is buying to beat out a further advance. This philosophy is just human nature, but it accounts for a large per cent of the wide fluctuations in market prices. In the second week in February, when prices reached the lowest level on the Kansas City market, a double deck of choice blackfaced bred ewes was offered. The commission man handling them offered to take \$4.00; no bids. He called up some of his regular patrons, stating quality, condition and price. "Yes," they said, "they are worth the money, but they might go still lower." A trader bought them at \$4.00 a hundred pounds, and three days later on a rising

market sold them to one of the men who had a chance to buy at \$4.00, for \$5.50. Human nature in trade lines is "hard-boiled," thick-headed and should not be followed too closely, especially when a period of abnormal depression, such as now prevails, is made the basis for trying to force a further bargain.

The common impression is that the sheep industry of the country is ruined. Such is not the case. It has been hit an awful jolt, is somewhat dazed, a good many are panicky, but the basic fact is that wool pelts and mutton are still staple commodities, and nothing can be substituted for them. The sheep producer will find some way to tide over to better times, and bargain hunters had better use some common sense.

C. M. P.

This is the time to pay your 1921 dues to the National Wool Growers Association. They are \$5.00 a year.

**RAMBOUILLET RAMS**

I have for sale 250 extra good yearling Rambouillet rams that have not been shorn, at Bliss, Idaho. These are unusually large smooth yearlings.

**S. W. McCLURE**  
Bliss, Idaho

**The National Wool Grower**  
with

**The Goat Journal**

**One Year---Both For  
\$2.50**

**National Wool Grower**  
303 McCornick Bldg.,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.



### LAMB FEEDERS' EXPERIENCE

(Continued from page 18.)

Weighing around 130 pounds the loss can easily be approximated. Speculators, both at the market and in the sphere of finishing, who have succumbed to adversity cannot be readily enumerated. A year ago the sheep house at Chicago was thronged by diamond-decked traders with money sticking conspicuously out of every pocket. They waxed wealthy, temporarily at least, on the fill; for six months past, riding a going down market their bank rolls have dwindled steadily until at this juncture a commission man selling a speculator a load of sheep demands money before delivery. The gambling game was good while it lasted.

All winter long Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Chicago have been filled with native ewes, selling at \$3.50@4, nearly all going to the shambles. The 1921 native lamb crop will be the smallest in many years, if that holds out hope to the Westerner; on the other hand demand for feeding stock will be materially reduced unless the summer market for fat lambs proves healthy, in which event the farmer feeder will try the game again. Sheep and lamb feeding is different from cattle as the industry is localized and when one locality gets "a knock" another gets in. Many of the cornbelt feeders who have been stung this season were novices; next season a new crop of buyers may develop. Some of the talent talk six cents for feeding lambs next fall.

So far as hotels, dining cars and restaurants are concerned, profiteering is still audaciously practiced, but the public is getting both lamb and mutton at reasonable prices. Chicago butchers have been making successful selling drives, displaying stewing lamb as low as 5 cents per pound. It has been possible to buy chops from 100-pound lambs at 40 cents per pound, the result being expanding consumption. Packers testify that consumption of lamb in Chicago has increased approximately 25 per cent during the past two months.

### RAMBOUILLETS

We are offering 80 head of Purebred Yearling Range Rams at \$50.00  
Offering 200 Ram Lambs, 50 per cent Polled.

**J. E. CORBETT & SONS, Bancroft, Idaho**

## Romneys and Lincolns

Our winnings at the International again put our flock in the lead. Wrights 236 won the prize for the second time as the greatest breeding ram.

For the 1921 season we will offer choice stud rams and ewes of the Romney and Lincoln breeds. We are sold out for this season with the exception of a few Romney ewes, bred and ready for shipment.

**Romney and Lincoln Show**  
Flocks our specialty.

## J. H. PATRICK & SON

Ilderton, Ontario, Canada

## A. J. KNOLLIN

Pocatello, Idaho  
P. O. BOX 478

BREEDER OF

Hampshire, Rambouillet, Shropshire, Oxford, Cotswold, Lincoln and Romney  
Sheep, Shorthorn Cattle, Belgian Horses, Berkshire Hogs.

Registered Stock For Sale

Correspondence Solicited

## Mt. Pleasant Rambouillet Farm



I am offering 300 head of big boned, fine-wooled, yearling rams for March and April delivery at special prices. Bred from the best pedigreed flocks in America.

Also some ewes of same breed.

**John K. Madsen**

Phone No. 147 P. O. Box 219  
MT. PLEASANT, UTAH

"MEN, HOLD OUT YOUR HAND!"

## Get Tippie's \$10.00 to \$25.00 Saving

It has never been good business to pay more for an article than is necessary. According to the standards set up by the ordinary clothiers, TIPPIE'S prices are \$10 to \$25 less—and there is no sacrifice whatsoever of style or quality.

Why Pay More Than You Ought To? TIPPIE Shows You Hundreds of SUITS AND OVERCOATS

Representing the topnotch ideas from nationally-advertised makers at savings positively not duplicated today by any other store—comparison will prove it—come up!

GUARANTEED VALUES UP TO \$45.00, \$25.00.

GUARANTEED VALUES UP TO \$55.00, \$35.00.

GUARANTEED VALUES UP TO \$70.00, \$45.00.

Keep in mind, men, that TIPPIE'S prices do not represent reductions made in order to push out a lot of "odds and ends."

Take note that TIPPIE'S special prices begin at \$25—and that weeks ago TIPPIE was first to announce this change to a prewar basis.

TIPPIE did a thing that many said "couldn't be done."

TIPPIE took the lead in doing it—and patrons have shown their appreciation by giving us a record-breaking business.

## TIPPIE'S

Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Utah.

The Up-Stairs Clothes Shop of Salt Lake City. 2nd Floor Clift Bldg., N. W. Corner Main and Broadway. Ride Up in Fast-Service Elevators and Save.

Messrs. A. J. Hickman & Co., Halse Grange, Brackley, England (late of Egerton, Kent).

Exporters of all breeds of stock, draft horses, beef breeds of cattle and show and breeding flocks of sheep a specialty. You can buy imported stock cheaper through us than in any other way, and we hope to get your inquiry at once, so that we can fit you out before this country is skinned of good stock, as it soon will be now that the war is over.

## WANTED!

### To Buy or Lease

Ranch and range for sheep in Colorado; must be sufficient range to carry 12,000 sheep.

Address: "B. C. J.," care National Wool Grower.

## To Close An Estate

# WE OFFER FOR SALE

## 45,000 Acre Stock Ranch at

# \$5.00 PER ACRE

The best ranch in the state of Washington. If wanted, also 1000 head of cattle and 10,000 sheep.

Address **COFFIN BROS.**

Yakima, Washington

A short native lamb crop ought to serve to stabilize the summer and fall market. That the farming country east of the Missouri River, with the exception of Kentucky and Tennessee, will be at least 40 per cent short of the 1920 output admits of no doubt as inability to sell wool has prompted cleaning up of thousands of farm flocks. There is uncertainty as to feeder demand and it is highly probable that feeders will give heavy lambs a wide berth, but experience shows that when supply is not in excess of weekly requirements a healthy market is assured. A certain number of people will eat lamb and mutton regardless of cost; a slight deficiency measured by such assured consumption means a prompt clearance; a slight excess means demoralization.

Western breeders are being urged to hold back ewe lambs this season. Should the wool market pick up this will be possible; otherwise financial expenses will necessitate sacrifice. The cornbelt will resume conservation of ewe lambs if the live mutton and wool markets improve. A tip is out that the coming season will be profitable for the feeder. This is based on expectancy, if not assurance, of cheap feed and cheaper thin lambs. As most feeders will decline to look at a heavy lamb that may be the logical kind to put in but the butcher is committed to the 75@85-pound lamb.

## NORTHEASTERN NEVADA

The winter up to the last of February in northeastern Nevada has been a favorable one for the live stock men. There has been an abundance of rain and snow, but no severe weather. Snow on the ranges has not remained for any length of time, but there has always been plenty for the sheep. The mountains are well supplied, the ground is full of water, and early feed is assured.

The wages of herders in this locality have been reduced to \$60.00 per month by practically all employers, and little complaint has been heard.

A. C. Olmsted.

Wells, Nevada.